Reviewer's report

Title: Effects of EpCAM Overexpression on Human Breast Cancer Cell Lines

Version: 4 Date: 3 January 2011

Reviewer: William E Gillanders

Reviewer's report:

The authors have successfully revised the manuscript. As requested, the manuscript now acknowledges the limitations of this gain-of-function model system, and the difficulty extrapolating the conclusions beyond the two cell lines studied.

The authors are correct in concluding that additional studies are required to evaluate the role of EpCAM in breast cancer. Alternative models may be more suitable for these studies.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

Please note that I am a scientific competitor. We have used RNA interference to study the impact of EpCAM expression in human breast cancer cell lines, including MDA-231. We have observed that specific ablation of EpCAM decreases breast cancer invasion in these studies (PMID: 15313925, 19141643, 19524940).