Reviewer's report

Title: Differential expression of THOC1 and ALY mRNP biogenesis/export factors in human cancers

Version: 3 Date: 25 January 2011

Reviewer: Joanna Stewart

Reviewer's report:

Reviewer 3 is correct in pointing out that with many comparisons made there are likely to be some false positives. Caution therefore needs to be used when interpreting any particular test in isolation (as is always true). However, as the authors point out, altering the probability level by using some adjustment simply increases the likelihood of missing a real difference that is in fact large enough to be important, particularly when the sample sizes being used are quite small. I do not agree that a Bonferroni or any modification of this would be helpful. The authors do not appear to have over-interpreted their data but to avoid a reader doing so they could possibly add to the discussion a sentence that acknowledges that many comparisons have been made and therefore there is an increased chance that there may be a comparison reaching their chosen level of significance which is in fact due to chance. Also, given the small sample sizes it is likely that for some tests a sizeable true effect size may not have been detected in this study which could explain some of the apparent inconsistencies with other studies.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests