Reviewer's report

Title: Overexpression of the phosphorylated MEK5 protein is associated with the progression of colorectal cancer

Version: 1 Date: 21 January 2012

Reviewer: Harvey Bumpers

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript is well-written and well done. The findings and conclusions are of great interest to colorectal cancer prognosis and possibly therapeutic evaluation.

Discretionary Revision:

I find it interesting that the tumor location did not significantly correlate with the expression of pMEK5 while the tumor location was significantly associated with DFS and OS. While the authors did stratify location by colon and rectum, they could have further stratified location by right colon, left colon, and rectum since they all have developmental differences.

I agree that a larger series may prove worthy in better delineating the possible status of the protein as a biomarkers.

Effects of neoadjuvant therapy on the expression of pMEK5 in rectal cancer and correlated prognosis would be interesting in follow-up studies.

Two typos noted:

Background: page 3, line 2 "actives" should be "activates"

Methods, page 4, 5th line from bottom "...patients underwent".. missing a word such as "...patients [that] underwent..."

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interestsin relation to this manuscript