Reviewer's report

Title: Preoperative serum levels of lipocalin-2 and matrix metalloproteinase-9 (MMP-9) are associated with prognosis of breast cancer.

Version: 1 Date: 6 October 2011

Reviewer: Ralph Arlinghaus

Reviewer's report:

Major revisions
I note that levels of LCN2 and MMP-9 observed in healthy individuals were not compared to the breast cancer patient samples. Historical levels were stated but there were inconsistencies in the reported data. Nevertheless, blood levels of from a large number of normal individuals should be assayed in their own hands and compared to that of breast cancer patient samples.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.