Reviewer's report

Title: Validation of podocalyxin-like protein as a biomarker of poor prognosis in colorectal cancer

Version: 1 Date: 29 March 2012

Reviewer: Sanjun Cai

Reviewer's report:

1. Very similar paper has been published in British Journal of Cancer (Br J Cancer. 2011 Aug 23;105(5):666-72). In that paper, they used tissue microarray in 526 colorectal cancer patients. In this paper, the authors (same first and corresponding author) used the same TMA in another group of patients. I don’t think it provided any additional information for this biomarker.

2. I think the author should also clarify if the patients in current study were also included in the paper in BJC.

3. However, the author also provided some other information about the mRNA expression level of PODXL and its relationship to outcomes and clinicopathological characteristics. I think it is useful and interesting to study further in this area. I suggest the author to do more study about the relationship between mRNA of PODXL and protein expression or outcomes. And if possible, further study about the PODXL in colorectal cancer cell lines will be supported.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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