Reviewer's report

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

Version: 1 Date: 1 May 2012

Reviewer: ANDREAS LAZARIS

Reviewer's report:

1. The staining of PODXL could be evaluated by using an image analysis programme
2. It would be essential to elaborate a little more the PODXL molecule properties
3. PODXL is a transmembrane protein, why did you declare that it shows a cytoplasmic expression?
4. It would be appropriate to make a comment on the role of PODXL on pathogenesis of other diseases such as glomerulopathies (similar anti-adhesive properties, "Immunohistochemical evaluation of podocalyxin expression in glomerulopathies associated with nephrotic syndrome" E. Kavoura et al, Hum Pathol. 2011 Feb;42(2):227-35. )
5. It would be essential to explain your results ie why increased PODXL expression is correlated to worse prognosis of the tumor. We suggest to make a comment on the anti-adhesive role of PODXL

Level of interest: An article of importance 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:

This review was done with Dr. Evangelia Kavoura. 'I declare that I have no competing interests'