Reviewer’s report

Title: Characterization of aldehyde dehydrogenase isozymes in ovarian cancer tissues and sphere cultures

Version: 1 Date: 15 May 2012

Reviewer: Sven Mieog

Reviewer’s report:

'Characterization of aldehyde dehydrogenase isozymes in ovarian cancer tissues and sphere cultures' by Saw et al. is a well designed, well performed and well written study in which the authors show overexpression of ALDH isoforms in ovarian cancers when compared to healthy tissue and a distinct type-specific expression pattern for one ALDH isoform, ALDH1A1. The literature is up-to-date and adequately discussed in light of the current results.

Minor Essential Revisions
1. Please provide scale bars in the IHC figures.
2. Please provide relevant clinical data on the patients from whom the samples were taken. Are they representative for the ovarian cancer population?

Discretionary Revisions
1. Please provide a short description of the cell lines used (not only the reference).
2. Please provide the agreement between the two independent observers of the IHC data.

Level of interest: An article of importance 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 interests.