Reviewer’s report

Title: Overexpression of CD44 accompanies acquired tamoxifen resistance and augments cellular sensitivity to the stromal factors, heregulin and hyaluronan.

Version: 1 Date: 9 February 2012

Reviewer: Anita -- Dunbier

Reviewer’s report:

The manuscript by Hiscox et al. describes a thorough characterisation of the role of CD44 in acquired tamoxifen resistance in vitro. Knockdown of CD44 in a tamoxifen resistant cell line suggests that the protein is involved in augmenting sensitivity to erbB ligands and HA but appears to have little effect on the basal phenotype of the cells. Although the manuscript does not provide any new data to support the relevance of the protein to the clinical situation, they do attempt to reconcile their findings with the information already available.

• Discretionary Revisions (which are recommendations for improvement but which the author can choose to ignore)
• Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Pg 2, Abstract, Line 14. “Immunofluorescence and immunoprecipitation students”. This does not make sense.
1. Pg 5, Line 17. Should be corrected to “These data”.
2. Pg 6 Line 5. “..by at…” Sense?
3. Pg 6 Line 19. Reference for immunoprecipitation is figure 7. Figure 7 does not appear to contain immunoprecipitation experiments. Should this be Figure 8?
4. Pg 11, Line 23. “An” should be changed to “a”
5. Pg 26. Figure 1 legend does not describe the key. I presume M=MCF7 and T=TamR but this needs to be stated.
Pg 26. Figure 2 legend. “B” does not appear in the figure.

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.