Reviewer's report

Title: Influence of Mucin-1 on grading, staging and overall survival evaluated in sera and tissue of ovarian cancer patients

Version: 2 Date: 8 August 2012

Reviewer: Harriet Feilotter

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Minor Essential Revisions:

1. Table 1 appears after Table 2 in the text. Either reverse the order, or refer to Table 1 in the M&M where patient samples are discussed.

2. Page 7 in section about MUC1 staining in tumours: the first sentence states that patients were evaluated by IHC, but it is more accurate to say that patient tumour samples were evaluated by IHC.

3. The description of tumour characteristics in the first paragraph of the results for MUC1 staining in tumours belongs in the M&M in the sample description.

4. The second paragraph in this section is awkward- would it be easier to say that 37 of 152 and 106 of 150 evaluable cases were positive for each Ab?

5. In the following paragraph about differences in expression of MUC1 in different grades of tumour, it is stated that there were "significant differences for grade 1, grade 2 and grade 3... compared to what? Please state the comparison clearly.

6. In the first paragraph of the discussion, it should be specified that this part refers to measurements of levels in sera of patients. Also, the last sentence of this first paragraph should probably go before the description of the findings from this study.

7. The conclusion states that while MUC1 levels are too variable in sera of patients to be used as a diagnostic tool, they may add significance to CA125 test results. As stated in my previous review, this is not a solid conclusion of this study, given that this particular analysis has not been done. Therefore, it can't be justified as a conclusion, although it could certainly be mentioned in the discussion as something to investigate in the future.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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.