Reviewer’s report

Title: Isolation and Genomic Analysis of Circulating Tumor Cells from Castration Resistant Metastatic Prostate Cancer

Version: 2 Date: 9 January 2012

Reviewer: Thomas Höfner

Reviewer’s report:

After second major revision of the manuscript there are still some details missing that should be included to strengthen the scientific quality of the work.

Minor compulsory revisions:

- As mentioned before the discussion should include a sentence about limitations that arise when using the manual scraping technique of adjacent tissue for the subsequent CGH comparison tumor versus CTCs. The sentence should include the limitation that the manual scraping technique could have potentially led to a bias of including benign tissue in the molecular comparison. Thereafter the authors should include their own sentence about the laser microdissection.

- The fact that FACS sorted CTCs could not be reanalyzed for their integrative purity and EpCAM+/CD45- consistency because of limited numbers is a clear limitation of the study and also has to be mentioned in the discussion. This should include the fact, that this could have potentially led to confounding results from molecular analyses of cells that were initially false positively sorted as EpCAM+/CD45- cells.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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.