Reviewer's report

Title: Interleukin-11, a cytokine produced by breast cancer cells, augments osteoclastogenesis by increasing the pool of osteoclast progenitor cells

Version: 2 Date: 27 November 2012

Reviewer: Julie Sterling

Reviewer's report:

I think the authors have done a good job of addressing my concerns. Overall, I am happy with the new version. My only comment that remain are minor essential revisions.

1) Figures 5, 6, and 7 need to show the quantified data. I understand that these are obvious differences but still feel that graphical representation of the data is important.

2) In the abstract and Background, I think the hypothesis needs to be more clearly defined.

As a side note, I agree with many of the comments of Reviewer 2. Particularly about the bone marrow cell population and the CD11b+GR1lo cells. I think the addition of this and the cross-talk between MCSF and IL-11 are interesting ideas that would increase the impact of this work. However, I agree with the authors that this is outside of the scope of this paper, but hope the authors consider this approach for future studies.

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