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: 24 November 2012

Reviewer: Osamu Takeuchi

Reviewer's report:

This paper builds on and extends previous studies on IL-11 and its role in osteoclastogenesis. The authors documented our points of concerns, but there are still some overstatements.

Major compulsory revisions

The authors have addressed most of my points of concern and provided some additional evidence. While the data is impressive, there are still some overstatements about the discovery. In page 2 and 3, the authors concluded that recombinant IL-11 is able to sustain a “population of osteoclast progenitor”. However, we can not agree this statement according to the data presented by this work. Thus, more nuanced statement would draw attention to the necessity for further precise investigation about the point of action of IL-11.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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.