Reviewer's report

Title: Expression of a LINE-1 endonuclease variant in gastric cancer: its association with clinicopathological parameters

Version: 2 Date: 18 April 2013

Reviewer: Francesc Balaguer

Reviewer's report:

The authors have been responsive and addressed the main issue raised in my first review, which was the correlation between LINE-1 methylation and GCRG213p expression.

- Minor Essential Revisions

In Figure 4 legend, it is stated that there is a negative control, but there is not. Either add the negative control in the gel, or remove it from the Figure legend.

Language editing is needed in the following paragraph (page 10):

The 116bp band was amplified with L1 methylated-specific primers (indicating methylated alleles; MSPM) and the 111bp band with L1 unmethylated-specific primers (indicating unmethylated alleles; MSPU). In GES-1 cells, no band was amplified with MSPU primers, and a strong band was amplified with MSPM primers, suggesting high levels of methylation of L1 promoters in these cells; In contrast, in SGC-7901, BGC-823 and MGC-803 cells, the corresponding bands could be amplified with both MSPM and MSPU, suggesting partial demethylation (Figure 4).

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: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests