Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Preclinical evaluation of Sunitinib as a single agent in the prophylactic setting in a mouse model of bone metastases.

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 23 August 2012

**Reviewer:** Arkadiusz Dudek

**Reviewer’s report:**

Authors describe outcomes of evaluation of effect of VEGF TKI, sunitinib on bone metastases.

The question of described research was well defined and methods were well described.

**Major Concern:**

The experiment was most likely inadequately powered to arrive to any definitive conclusions.

**Major Revisions:**

1. Authors should explain how they calculated that sample size of 7 animals per group would be sufficient. Size of standard deviation would also suggest larger group of animals was needed.

2. While size of osteolytic lesions was not different between experimental and control arm, authors report that tumor size was smaller in animals treated with sunitinib. Clarification is needed whether only tumors in bones were measured. Histological confirmation of tumor area at the conclusion of experiment would be desirable

3. In Figure 3 there is a clear overlap between tumor sizes in both experimental and control arms. I would recommend provision of raw data and analysis for significance by independent statistician.

**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.