Reviewer's report

Title: TGFbeta-mediated suppression of CD248 in non-cancer cells via canonical Smad-dependent signaling pathways is uncoupled in cancer cells

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Reviewer: pavlos lampropoulos

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In this manuscript, Sahana Suresh Babu et al. evaluated the effects of several cytokines on the expression of CD248. The authors show that TGF-# downregulates CD248 expression in normal cells of mesenchymal origin and that this is mediated via canonical Smad-dependent intracellular signaling pathways. Their work provides novel information regarding the association of this pathway with cancer and suggests that elements of this pathway may provide valuable prognostic information in this disease. The authors suggest that CD248 may play an important role in the transition of TGF-# from a tumor suppressor to a tumor promoter.

The images are very clear and of high quality and the statistical analysis is well performed.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest 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.