Reviewer's report

Title: Clinical relevance of breast cancer-related genes as potential biomarkers for oral squamous cell carcinoma

Version: 2 Date: 8 April 2014

Reviewer: Jenn-Ren MD, PhD Hsiao

Reviewer's report:

Discretionary Revisions:
1) This re-submitted manuscript has significantly improved compared to the previous one. The “normal mucous membrane” has been clarified as the “peritumoral normal mucous membrane” (p11. line 9). And the authors provided a plausible speculation regarding why positive expression of S100A8 was independently correlated with OS, while CNTNAP2 was independently correlated with DSS, in the DISCUSSION section. The authors also provided a more detailed definition regarding “peritumor inflammatory infiltrate” (p7, lines 21-23) and histological grading (p7, lines 10-12), and provided the information of cigarette smoking in their OSCC cohort, although the information regarding alcohol usage is still lacking.
2) It would be interesting for the authors to perform an additional multivariate analysis by adjusting tumor size, lymph node status and differentiation to demonstrate the prognostic impact of S100A8 on OS of these OSCC patients, since the authors had demonstrated that expression of this protein is significantly associated with tumor differentiation.

Minor Essential Revisions:
None.

Major Compulsory Revisions:
None (The authors had recruited other cohorts of OSCC patients for validating their candidate genes).

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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'