Reviewer's report

Title: TIMP-1 and responsiveness to gemcitabine in advanced breast cancer; results from a randomized phase III trial from the Danish Breast Cancer Cooperative Group

Version: 3 Date: 21 February 2014

Reviewer: Francisco Vizoso

Reviewer's report:

Minor Essential Revisions:

- Authors must described briefly the immunohistochemical staining and not only refers to a publication.

- Authors must described the method used for the semi-quantitation. What is the cutt-off used to consider a positive or negative sample (number or percentage of positive cells)??? What is the surface counted (number of fields or mm2)???

- Authors must add as a limitation of the study the fact that they consider the staining in tumor cells but no in te stroma. however, it is know that stroma contributed to tumor progression (refs.: del Casar, Breast Cancer Res Treat. 2009 Jul;116(1):39-52 and Gonzalez LO Br J Cancer. 2007 Oct 8;97(7):957-63)

Level of interest: An article of importance 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