Reviewer's report

Title: Podocalyxin is a marker of poor prognosis in colorectal cancer

Version: 2  Date: 5 February 2014

Reviewer: Konstantinos Konstantopoulos

Reviewer's report:

This is a careful study conducted by a leading research group in the area of PODXL research. The authors report that PODXL is an independent prognostic factor in subgroups of LHCC and rectal cancers. They also demonstrate differential levels of PODXL expression depending on tumor location.

It will be helpful for the audience if the authors could elaborate further on the cytoplasmic localization of PODXL in the cancerous specimens. I would expect that PODXL as a potential stem cell marker is present on the cell membrane, too.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I have a pending application for PODXL as a marker for capturing metastatic tumor cells. Other than this, I declare that I have no competing interests.