Reviewer's report

Title: Extracellular Matrix Signatures of Human Primary Metastatic Colon Cancers and their Metastases to Liver.

Version: 3 Date: 15 May 2014

Reviewer: Raghu Kalluri

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• Major Essential Revisions
  1. The premise of this manuscript discussed in the introduction involved the translation of proteome signatures to clinic, however this entire manuscript was merely descriptive of the signatures elucidated from three patients. Is there a way to connect the findings with patient prognosis or survival. Key signature patterns identified could be probed using IHC.
  2. Maybe a discussion of these findings could predict metastasis might be useful.
  3. Related to point one. If you on find the same genes patterns using gene expression arrays, what is the benefit of doing proteomics for diagnosis? A discussion might be useful.
  4. Further clarification of the significance of “leading edge” in statistical analysis of Figure 4 C-D might be useful. The abstract needs to be improved with some mention of the signature highlights.

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 declare that I have no competing interests.