Reviewer's report

Title: Detection of infectious organisms in archival prostate cancer tissues

Version: 1 Date: 13 May 2014

Reviewer: Silvia Franceschi

Reviewer's report:

The present paper addresses a very important issue (the possible role of STIs in prostate cancer aetiology) on which there is still a substantial uncertainty.

The paper is clearly written and the laboratory methods accurate.

My only major request is to add some additional comments in the text on the evaluation and interpretation of the findings about Mycoplasma genitalium. An appropriate statistical test would also be useful in Table 2. Although numbers are small and the article's conclusions are not challenged, the findings about Mycoplasma genitalium should not be considered, in my view, completely negative and deserve at least some background information on the organism.

Some more work on Mycoplasma genitalium would also help elucidating the original statistical analysis plans of the present work: it is a little mid-way between a comparison of prostate cancers by Gleason score and a comparison of tumor and non-tumor tissue samples.

Minor issue

Page 6, last line: the mention of "hit and run" mechanisms is made in a vacuum: no real hypotheses and evidence. Please take away or expand on what you were afraid of.