In this manuscript Mondello et al measured serum levels of ghrelin, obestatin and leptin at baseline and after 18 months, in a diverse population of advanced malignancy patients and found that:

1) Ghrelin was higher whereas leptin and obestatin were lower in patients compared to controls.
2) They were all superior to alb for detection of cachexia, and
3) Ghrelin and leptin were predictors of death.

This is a well written paper. I believe that it could be published after some minor essential revisions:

1) Page 3, lines 68-69: I believe that you mean "high levels of inflammatory markers and low Hb value".
2) Page 5, line 99: You should describe what you mean when saying "severe kidney disease".
3) Page 5, line 100: Patients receiving glucocorticoids were excluded. Since lymphoma and MM patients usually receive corticoids along with chemotherapy, please describe more extensively how far from corticoid administration they were studied.
4) You describe that 105 patients were in stage 4 and therefore they had metastatic disease. For the cases of lymphomas, stage IV is not called metastatic and therefore I suggest that you should modify it. Moreover, for the case of MM, the international staging system has only 3 stages. Therefore, it is a little misleading when you imply that all stages III are less advanced than stages IV. You should probably describe it in the legend of the table.

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.