Reviewer’s report

**Title:** High Nuclear/Cytoplasmic Ratio of Cdk1 Expression Predicts Poor Prognosis in Colorectal Cancer Patients

**Version:** 2 **Date:** 18 September 2014

**Reviewer:** Lijun Ding

**Reviewer’s report:**

This study evaluated the potential usage of Cdk1 expression in the nucleus and cytoplasm as the prognostic implications in colorectal cancer and found that a high Cdk1 nuclear/cytoplasmic (N/C) expression ratio was correlated with poor overall survival.

The article reveals a novel strategy for the use of the Cdk1 N/C ratio rather than the Cdk1 expression for predicting prognosis of colon cancer patients. Besides, the author discusses the mechanism of nuclear translocation of cyclin B/CDC2 complexes during tumor genesis and the implication of small-molecule Cdk1 inhibitors in tumor treatment.

However, there are some specific concerns related to manuscript style.

Major concern:

1. Since this study was based on immunoreactive staining score, how to control the time of HRP-DAB IHC staining to decrease the influence of technical artifact? The authors should show the detail of the IHC protocol, such as the microscope, the magnification of lens, et al.

2. How to control the variance with each pathologist when analyzing immunoreactivity scores? Why the authors did not use the software such as Image-Pro Analyzer software or Image J to scan the staining area to directly calculate the ratio of CDK1 in nuclei and cytoplasm?

Minor concern:

1. In the figure 2, the author should show the nuclei and cytoplasm expression of CDK1, including the bar, exposure time et al;

**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 no competing interests.