Reviewer’s report

Title: TP53 mutations in ovarian carcinomas from sporadic cases and carriers of two distinct BRCA1 founder mutations; relation to age at diagnosis and survival

Version: 3 Date: 5 September 2005

Reviewer: Andrew Roddam

Reviewer’s report:

General

The majority of my previous review comments have been addressed satisfactorily - I have now only one outstanding issue.

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

I am still not convinced that Figure 1 is an appropriate representation of the data - even with the additional symbols it is still misleading the reader in terms of interpretation. Secondly I am not certain that the linear trend lines that are inserted are actually calculated from a survival analysis. If not these lines are biased and should not be shown. The authors must ensure that this figure presents an accurate and valid representation of the data.

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

The test for difference in age should be a test for difference in medians and not means due to small sample sizes.

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests