Reviewer’s report

Title: Mutations in PIK3CA are infrequent in Neuroblastoma

Version: 1 Date: 1 June 2006

Reviewer: Paula Soares

Reviewer’s report:

The manuscript by Dam et al., “Mutations in PIK3CA are infrequent in neuroblastoma” although not addressing a very original question, and presenting essentially negative results, is well performed, the point of the paper is well defined and presents new data in the oncobiology of neuroblastoma. The methods are appropriate and some less clear points are referred in Minor Essential Revisions. Experimental designed is well described and done with the appropriate controls. The discussion is interesting although a bit long.

- Major Compulsory Revisions
  No Major Compulsory Revisions suggested

- Minor Essential Revisions
  Although the methods are well described I would suggest that the authors clarify in Methods section the origin (Lab or company) of the cell lines used.
  In the description of PCR amplification (page8) the authors perform two PCR reactions for each sequencing reaction. It was not clear for me if it consist in a replica or not. Please clarify.

- Discretionary Revisions
  I would suggest a reduction or “compression” of the tables.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'