Reviewer's report

Title: Mismatch repair and treatment resistance in ovarian cancer

Version: 1 Date: 27 April 2006

Reviewer: John Geisler

Reviewer's report:

General

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

The adequacy of Methods in determining MSI is questionable. The NCI consensus markers were not wholly studied (D2S123, D5S346, D17S250, BAT25, and BAT26). Only the latter two markers were analyzed. Another common marker for MSI, NM23, was not studied either. Therefore, the declaration that no MSI and no alterations in MMR were found is not acceptable. The authors did find 7 tumors with MLH1 silencing. It will be interesting to see if any of the other MSI markers are related. Further the authors did note a relationship between methylation and lack of expression in MLH1.

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

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

Please explain why in your patient population only 46 of 75 patients received platinum-based chemotherapy.

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

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

- Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper? Have published on MSI and MMR within last 5 years.