Reviewer's report

Title: Elevated expression of VEGFR-3 in lymphatic endothelial cells from lymphangiomas

Version: 2 Date: 4 December 2006

Reviewer: Peter Sydney Mortimer

Reviewer's report:

General

This manuscript describes a thorough study characterising molecular expression from a range of endothelial cells sourced commercially and from two patients with lymphangioma. These important studies slowly but surely increase our knowledge about expression of lymphatic specific molecular markers under different circumstances.

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

1. The manuscript is overlong for the new information it provides. Indeed, I had certain difficulties in determining what was new here and what significant contribution to the literature it makes.

2. There was no clear aim. I was not sure what the authors were trying to achieve when they embarked on this work and subsequently it translates rather into a stamp collecting exercise. Were any hypotheses being tested?

3. There is not one statistic presented. Looking at expression profiles is a very subjective process and some assurances that bias has been avoided would be helpful.

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

1. P4, line 15: should be "Ethics" committee. I hope all committees are "ethical".

2. P10, 2nd para: 2nd sentence should read "we followed the question ARE these cells .....".

3. P14, 2nd para, 4th sentence: not sure if this makes sense. Do the authors mean that the activity ... of the angiopoietins ... is controversial.

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: Yes

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.