Reviewer's report

Title: Increased mRNA levels of interferon alpha receptor 2 is associated with metastasis of renal cell carcinoma

Version: 2 Date: 27 November 2006

Reviewer: Torgny Rasmuson

Reviewer's report:

General
The results presented demonstrate a relation of IFNR-alfa-2 mRNA to poor prognosis in renal cell carcinoma, an interesting observation that could be of value when non-surgical therapy is considered. The effect of Interferon-alfa could be by direct binding to the tumour cells or via a stimulation of immunocompetent cells.

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

Was there any relation of IFNR-alfa-1-2 mRNA to gender or age?
The interpretation of the information presented in Figure 1 D concerning the effect on IFN-alfa therapy is not quite obvious. The Figure legend could be more specific on the mode of evaluation of the effect.
Why is the tumour type, sarcomatoid and conventional RCC, not included in the multivariate analysis?

A reference ought to be added since their findings are opposed the present results. Morell-Quadreny L, et al, Oncol Report 1999, 6: 639-42. This paper claims no relation of type 1 IFN-R expression to stage, grade, gender, age and survival.

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

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

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

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.