Reviewer’s report

Title: TGFB and TGFBR1 polymorphisms and breast cancer risk in the Nurses' Health Study

Version: 1 Date: 13 May 2007

Reviewer: David Goldgar

Reviewer’s report:

General

This short paper examines the role of two SNPs in the TGFB1 gene in breast cancer predisposition in a sample of cases and controls from the Nurses Health Study. In contrast to a recently published combined analysis of >5000 cases and controls, the authors do not find association with the L10P polymorphism, although as they acknowledge, their study is underpowered to detect the effect estimated from the BCAC study. Interestingly, however, their result is significantly different from that found by the BCAC. Although most likely simply due to sampling variation, perhaps the authors could postulate additional reasons for this finding. Given that the case control studies are largely European-based (or at last not US-based), could population differences play a role? Also, if the BCAC cases are composed largely of prevalent cases, while the NHS ones by definition are incident cases, could this be a possible explanation.

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

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)

It might be useful to have a bit of discussion on why the difference in findings between BCAC and the present study.

What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.