Reviewer's report

Title: Gene-expression of metastasized versus non-metastasized primary head and neck squamous cell carcinomas: a pathway-based analysis

Version: 2 Date: 8 February 2008

Reviewer: Ruud Brakenhoff

Reviewer's report:

Hensen et al. have adapted their MS to most points of critique of all reviewers. I accept their statement that this pathway driven approach is of value even when different platforms are compared. The point of critique remaining, is that Roepman et al. reported that there was a difference between the old and new samples. Might this play a role in the problem with the gene-based approach? The authors do not address this point at all, while it was an important message of the original paper.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.