Reviewer's report

Title: National Mesothelioma Virtual Bank: A Standards Based Biospecimen and Clinical Data Resource to Enhance Translational Research

Version: 1 Date: 21 July 2008

Reviewer: P H Riegman

Reviewer's report:

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BMC Cancer

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Please number your comments and divide them into

- Minor Essential Revisions

1. The data given on page 13 must be updated to the current time: “At the end of first quarter of 2008 we project the resource to have over 700 annotated cases of pleural, peritoneal and pericardial mesothelioma specimens along with blood and DNA samples available” This must be replaced by the data gathered now.

2. The honest broker is mentioned several times to act as a guardian of privacy. However, it is not mentioned what role the honest broker has in the whole process. Is it the local biobank manager, a lawyer, a database application or a notary. The honest broker role must be described who is or are they.

- Accept after minor essential revisions (which the authors can be trusted to make)

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
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I have no competing interests in relation to the paper I have reviewed.

- Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this paper, either now or in the future? No
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Open peer review
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Submission of this report is taken as confirmation that you are happy for your signed report to be posted on the BMC Cancer website as part of the pre-publication history of this article.

Yes