Reviewer's report

Title: TP53 status and taxane-platinum versus platinum-based therapy in ovarian cancer patients: a non-randomized retrospective study.

Version: 2 Date: 16 January 2008

Reviewer: Michael C MacLeod

Reviewer's report:

I have carefully looked at the reviews of this ms and the responses by the authors. Of the 4 compulsory revisions required by Reviewer 2 (A. Gadducci), numbers 2, 3, and 4 are I think adequately addressed by the authors. The authors' response to Revision #1 is reasonable, but I don't think that the authors quite got the intent of the reviewer. When I read his review, my interpretation is that the suggestion is not that only serous ovarian carcinoma should be studied (i.e. a single homogeneous group), but that each subgroup should be homogeneous, and therefore the subgroup that includes clear cell and endometrioid is problematic since these are not homogeneous. This is essentially the same criticism as was raised by reviewer 3 (T. Maggino: "to enclode (sic) endometrioid and clear cell carcinoma in the same subgroup is arbitrary.") The authors did address that point, evidently to Dr. Maggino's satisfaction, and there are no claims made in the conclusions with regards to these two types. Thus, I would say that Dr. Gadducci's requirements have been adequately addressed and the paper can be published with no further revision.