Reviewer’s report

Title: Expression of the RON receptor tyrosine kinase and its association with tumourigenic phenotypes in gastric carcinoma

Version: 4 Date: 24 September 2008

Reviewer: ernest camp

Reviewer’s report:

Dear Dr. Nelson,

In the manuscript entitled “Expression of the RON receptor tyrosine kinase and its association with tumourigenic phenotypes in gastric carcinoma”, the authors evaluate the relationship of RON with clinicopathologic factors associated with gastric cancer. This was accomplished by immunohistochemical and Western Blot analysis of surgical specimens. They also evaluated the role of RON splice variants. Overall, the methods used to evaluate the proposed questions are appropriate and important information is gained by their analysis similar to what has been observed in other organ systems.

Few editorial issues still exist and should be corrected such as:

1. page 4: the statement “ten samples of normal gastric...." is repeated twice.
2. run-on sentences such as on page 6: the sentence beginning " In the 19 samples of fresh gastric...."

In summary, the authors contribute to the growing evidence of RON’s significance in tumor progression focusing on gastric cancer. Unfortunately, as the authors point out, the short follow up likely limited survival analysis. As RON correlated with more severe disease, a difference in survival would be expected and a median follow up of less than two years was just too early of an analysis.

Overall, this manuscript warrants publication based on the revisions made by the authors.

Thank you for allowing me to review this paper

Sincerely,

E. Ramsay Camp, M.D.
Assistant Professor, Surgical Oncology
Department of Surgery
Medical University of South Carolina

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