Reviewer’s report

**Title:** The development of a mini-array for estimating the disease states of gastric adenocarcinoma by array CGH

**Version:** 4  **Date:** 3 October 2008

**Reviewer:** Paul A Edwards

**Reviewer’s report:**

I was asked to give editorial advice on this MS following reviewer Rao's reluctance to accept the revised version. This is not completely straightforward but essentially I think it would be reasonable to accept the paper now as it is of some interest to others—not just in gastric cancer—who are trying to do similar things. I think Rao's point is that although the authors' arrays have been shown to have a degree of self-consistency, the results obtained might not in all details be reliable, because, for example, there is a long history of BAC clones on arrays being incorrectly identified, e.g. by errors in curating collections, or putting trays of BACs on the arrayer in the wrong orientation, and some BAC clones seem to give atypical hybridisation performance. Thus in the context of detection of losses and deletions in particular regions, validation of representative results by an independent method would be advisable. However, in the context of practical application of the arrays this is not crucial and I would recommend acceptance of the revised version.