Reviewer’s report

Title: Polymorphisms in ASE-1, RAI and ERCC1 and the effects of tobacco smoking and alcohol consumption on risk of colorectal cancer: A Danish prospective case-cohort study

Version: 1 Date: 7 May 2007

Reviewer: Federica Gemignani

Reviewer’s report:

This manuscript describes a case-control association study investigating the role of a candidate region spanning 19q13.2-3. The manuscript is well written and clear. Unlike previous studies made by the same group, here the authors were not able to confirm previous results found in breast and lung cancer.

Major Compulsory Revisions:

1) The authors should explain better the enrollment, since it seems that only 50.000 samples were not diagnosed of cancer out of the total recruitment of 150.000 samples. More details should be given and explain better who are the selected cases (all new diagnoses in the selected period, or prevalent cases with past diagnoses of colorectal cancer) and also the sub-cohort of controls.

2) The authors should state clearly what is the power of their study, in relation to the allele frequencies of the considered polymorphisms.

Minor Essential Revisions

Reference #4: in press? submitted?

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests