Reviewer's report

Title: Association of NGAL mRNA Expression with Tumor Progression and MMP-9 in Human Rectal Cancer

Version: 4 Date: 21 December 2008

Reviewer: Andreas Friedl

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions
None

Minor Essential Revisions
The authors explained the last line in Table 2 (“Randomizations”) in their response letter. They should also add a brief explanation in the figure legend. Most readers will not be familiar with the REST statistical/software tool. Similarly, the issue of NGAL in neutrophils is addressed in the response letter but not in the manuscript. A brief comment should be added.

Discretionary Revisions
None

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

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests