Reviewer's report

Title: Association between polymorphisms in RMI1, TOP3A, and BLM and risk of cancer: a case-control study

Version: 1 Date: 2 October 2008

Reviewer: Ulla Vogel

Reviewer's report:

- Major Compulsory Revisions

1. There is no description of the quality control of the genotyping of the leukemia, melanoma and bladder case-control studies. This should be added.

2. I really think that all four case-control studies are too small to merit publishing in relation to genetic epidemiology. Moreover, it is a poor epidemiological design to compare female breast cancer cases with a control group which also includes 30% men.

3. In order to publish this work, I think that you should reproduce your results regarding the four selected SNPs in a cohort that includes at least 400 cases and 400 controls for example for breast cancer. There are several possibilities in Scandinavia, if you want to use the same ethnic group.

4. I think that there is some potentially very interesting findings, but the study cohorts are simply too small to merit publication in my opinion, even though you have four. This is a very interesting pilot study that should open doors in terms of starting a collaboration with larger cohorts.

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'