Reviewer's report

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

Version: 2 Date: 18 December 2008

Reviewer: Donghui Li

Reviewer's report:

I strongly agree with Dr. Vogel's comments on the limitations of this study. Even though the authors argue that this paper should be published as preliminary study, I don't think these data will add much to the scientific field. Early molecular epidemiology studies have generated a huge amount of similar data that cannot be confirmed in later large studies. Five out of the 8 "significant" odds ratios presented in Table 2 are associated with a sample size of <10 in one of the comparing groups. The only meaningful data is perhaps the breast cancer data, which has the largest sample size of all 4 groups. The study simply does not have enough power at the current size. If additional cases have been gathered as the authors indicated in their rebuttal letter, why not wait until the analysis is done so a better paper is published?

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.