**Reviewer's report**

**Title:** Clinical significances of preoperative serum interleukin-6 and C-reactive protein level in operable gastric cancer

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 27 January 2009

**Reviewer:** Paola Allavena

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Minor points:

1. Few sentences should be clarified: In the first paragraph of the Introduction, the Authors say that IL-6 “stimulates cancer cells”. This is true, but a bit formless. As the explanation is in the paragraph below, a simple sentence could introduce the concept, e.g.: “IL-6 has several effects also on cancer cells”.

2. Second page of the Introduction, the word “reflective” is not adequate for a “marker”.

3. There is no reason to put Tables in the Supplementary materials, at least Table 2 should be shown in the main paper. Also, the significant association of serum levels of IL-6 and CRP should be shown in a graph.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**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' Paola Allavena