Reviewer's report

Title: Mammographic density and epithelial histopathologic markers

Version: 2 Date: 23 April 2009

Reviewer: Erin Aiello J Bowles

Reviewer's report:

The revised manuscript reads very well and addressed my original concerns. I have one additional comment.

Discretionary Revisions:
1. According to the discussion (pages 10-11), the association between ER and percent density among women with large breasts is supported by the idea that the amount of local estrogens, primarily from adipose tissue, may influence density. While this may apply in postmenopausal women, the main source of estrogen in premenopausal women is from ovarian production, not adipose tissue. Therefore, in order for the authors' hypothesis to be true, the association between ER and percent density among women with large breasts should be even stronger in postmenopausal women. Did the authors stratify any of their analyses by menopausal status? This would be an important piece of the puzzle that readers would be interested in given the results and conclusions that have been presented.

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.