Reviewer's report

Title: Correlation between MMPs and their inhibitors in breast cancer tumor tissue specimens and in cell lines with different metastatic potential

Version: 1 Date: 7 October 2008

Reviewer: Xiaochun Xu

Reviewer's report:

Minor Essential Revisions

Comments to the authors:

This is a correlative study of MMPs, TIMP, and others in breast cancer cell lines and tissues by using Q-RT-PCR analyses, which is nice to correlate them in the same cohort of samples and cell lines. However, it will be much strengthened if patients' survival data are included, though it is not essential. It is because other reports have had such data, such as Wu et al, Int J Cancer, 122: 2050-2056, 2008. Or performed some mechanistic study, if you can.

Minor comments:

Table 2 does not include all the primers used, such as MMP9. In addition, don’t put length discussion in the results section.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

None