Reviewer’s report

Title: Low-risk susceptibility alleles in 40 human breast cancer cell lines

Version: 2 Date: 10 December 2008

Reviewer: Stefania Tommasi

Reviewer’s report:

The authors described the genotype of five low risk susceptibility alleles in a well-characterized cohort of 40 human breast cancer cell lines. The paper seems a review of already reported data only deeper analyzed without any innovative information.

Furthermore, it seems written a bit confusing: in material and methods, paragraph “Genotyping” reported previously allelotyping results which should be better located in the discussion section.

In the results section, paragraph “expression levels of nearby…. ” the AA showed the association between SNP genotyping and expression level, but all cancer cell lines have been used lacking in normal controls. Are they sure that is the single SNP or association of SNPs which determine a peculiar expression pattern?

Major Compulsory Revisions

Material and methods should be clearly re-written

Result-Discussion section should be better organized to clear explain the aim and the effective results of this paper.

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'