Reviewer's report

Title: ST3Gal.I sialyltransferase relevance in bladder cancer tissues and cell lines

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Reviewer: Hanna Rennert

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In this paper the authors investigated the regulation of sialyltransferases expression and its correlation with sialyl-T antigen expression in bladder cancer. The quality of the work presented in the manuscript is impeccable and carefully presented. The expression analyses of the different sialyltransferase variants in bladder cancer as well as in the corresponding normal tissues are comprehensive and detailed and would be of general interest to researchers in this area. The paper is well written, and the data overall are sound. The methods and results are well described and the discussion in comprehensive and sound.

One comment that I have is regarding the “field effect” described by the authors for explaining the increased levels of ST3Gal.I mRNA in the normal mucosa. Can this be due, at least in part, to the presence of contaminating tumor cells; although the authors do indicate that normal tissue was obtained from appearing normal mucosa remote from the tumor?