Reviewer’s report

Title: Identification of colorectal cancer patients with tumors carrying the TP53 mutation on the codon 72 proline allele benefited most from 5-fluorouracil (5-FU) based post-operative chemotherapy.

Version: 1 Date: 16 July 2009

Reviewer: Antonio Russo

Reviewer’s report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

The text should be deeply revised by an English-speaking person, in order to correct grammar and typos.

The manuscript seems to be redundant, especially in the background, that should be better focused on colon cancer, erasing the last sentence since it anticipates the results.

Moreover, each section should be reduced at least by one third to make it more readable.

With regard to the results section it should be avoided to anticipate the topics of the discussion.

The sample population is specified many times in the text; it should be mentioned only in the results.

Even if the authors explained that the differences with the TP53 CRC International Collaborative study results are mainly attributable to the ethnicity of the sample, it should be underlined as well the limited size of the Japanese sample with respect to the International one.

The authors support their results reporting that they are consistent with what have been previously observed in HNSCC after cisplatin based chemo-radiotherapy, but the cancer type and the chemotherapeutic regimens (please, substitute reagents with regimens!) were different.

Conclusions section could be erased.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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' below.