Reviewer's report

Title: APRIL is a novel clinical chemo-resistance biomarker in colorectal adenocarcinoma identified by gene expression profiling.

Version: 1 Date: 17 July 2009

Reviewer: Daniela Ellen Aust

Reviewer's report:

Essential revisions
The conclusion of the authors that APRIL may be a predictive marker in 5FU-treated colorectal cancers seems a little far fetched since the authors write that APRIL is upregulated after CRT but do not indicate whether the expression of APRIL was also elevated in pre-treatment biopsies. In order to be of predictive value, APRIL expression has to be scored in pre-treatment biopsies and has predict the response to treatment. What the authors have shown so far is, that APRIL is a prognostic marker in stage III rectal cancers that were treated with RCT. The authors should state that. Maybe, strong APRIL expression in the resection specimens should prompt adjuvant treatment with other substances than 5FU.

The authors should give the number of tissue cores per case in the TMA that was used, so that the reader does not have to pull out the previous publications.

Discretionary Revisions:
There are quit a few typographical errors that need to be corrected.

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:
I declare that I have no competing interests.