Reviewer's report

Title: Elevated PDGF-BB Concentrations in Premature Neonates Who Develop Chronic Lung Disease

Version: 3 Date: 19 May 2004

Reviewer: Willem A Dik

Reviewer's report:

Most answers and revisions made by the authors are satisfactory. However, I still have methodological problems with the manuscript. In humans with pulmonary fibrosis increased expression of PDGF-A and PDGF-B mRNA and protein has been demonstrated in alveolar macrophages, and PDGF-B appeared the most abundantly expressed. This favours the formation of the PDGF-BB dimer and (finally) secretion of PDGF-BB by these cells. Since alveolar macrophages do comprise a considerable population in TA from these infants I still feel that the methodology of the authors (centrifugation of TA containing cells (alveolar macrophages) at high speed) may have artificially released this growth factor from the cells and thereby influenced the measurements. The authors should make a comment in their manuscript that they are aware of this and why they think their methodology does not significantly influence the PDGF results.

On page 14 the authors mention a study by Currie et al, so they should also add this to their reference list.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No