Reviewer's report

Title: Activation of Intervertebral Disc Cells by Co-culture with Notochordal Cells, Conditioned Medium and Hypoxia

Version: 3 Date: 4 November 2014

Reviewer: Esther Potier

Reviewer's report:

The revised manuscript presents now a much clearer rationale and goal. The authors answered well to reviewer's comment and, when needed, corrected the manuscript accordingly.

The manuscript, however, still contains grammar and syntax mistakes, that should be corrected before publication. This point has already been mentioned in the first review and still need some work from the authors. It is not the reviewer’s task to edit the manuscript and the authors should be trusted to make these corrections.

As examples, some of the mistakes found in the manuscript:
Results:” A full table of the Swiss Prot search of identified proteins listed per can be obtained”": per what?
Discussion: CK8 or KRT8? The authors should choose one of the abbreviations
Discussion: “two MMPs detected (MMP 1 and MMP2) detected” space before 1, detected twice
Conclusions: “NC cells” cells should be removed
Conclusions: “in presence of NC that had been activated” should be have

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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.