Reviewer's report

Title: Pepsinogen I and II expressions in situ and their correlations with serum pesignogen levels in gastric cancer and its precancerous disease

Version: 2 Date: 7 May 2013

Reviewer: Thomas Wex

Reviewer's report:

The authors addressed most points appropriately, and the manuscript has improved substantially. There are still some minor essential issues to address:

- Please include the SI units (ng/ml?) for PGI and PGII in text and figures
- Include SI units and IRS in X-Y-axes of figures 5 and 6
- Figures 5 and 6 illustrate data summarized in table 4. The partial redundancy is acceptable, but I suggest to include the R- and P-values (within a small insert) to the correspond panel of Figures 4A-D and 5A-D to allow a quick assignment in regard to primary data to table 4.
- Please include the Mann-Whitney U test (applied for Table 2) to the paragraph "Statistical analysis". Furthermore, the authors need to apply first the Kruskal-Wallis test (as global test – since >2 groups are compared) before Mann-Whitney is applied. Since reported significances were quite strong (P=0.002 and P=0.003), they will remain significant.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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'