Reviewer's report

Title: Ki-67 is a Strong Prognostic Marker of Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer When Tissue Heterogeneity is considered.

Version: 2 Date: 13 January 2014

Reviewer: Giulio Rossi

Reviewer's report:

Major revisions
- Spiral array does not add better information when compared to conventional whole sections neither in terms of costs nor in terms of reproducibility

- Ki67 has been previously studied in NSCLC as prognostic marker, but without any practical role. The study herein does not add news on this topic. The only good new is that highest expression is more prognostic than average or lowest expression. Different studies explored the predictive value of Ki67 to chemotherapy, but none revealed significant influence. Ki67 index has also a lower significance when compared to new predictive biomarkers (e.g., ERCC1, RRM1, EGFR, ALK, others)

- Heterogeneity of Ki67 values is a major problem in several tumors, as correctly underlined by the authors. This is true well-known also in NSCLC.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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'