Reviewer's report

Title: Transcriptional Profiling of Degraded RNA in Cryopreserved and Fixed Tissue Samples Obtained at Autopsy

Version: 1 Date: 5 July 2006

Reviewer: Paola Capodieci

Reviewer's report:

General
The paper is well written and the topic is interesting.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
I have few comments/questions:
the authors say ".1536 probes allow the selection of a specific set of 512 genes.." and in the section of the DASL Cancer Panel they specified that all but 48 of the 1536 validated with human DNA genomic as template. I would like to know if this subset of 48 probes is affecting the total number of genes analyzed at the end. I believe it needs to be clarified.

Figure 1 is incomplete/unclear. The Authors mentioned 5' primers P1 and P2 but in the figure they appear to be one at 5' and the other at 3', it is confusing. P3 primer at the 3' is only mentioned in the text and it is not appearing in the figure.
I believe this figure needs to be reviewed and clarified.

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests