Reviewer’s report

Title: Serum Biomarkers for Neurofibromatosis Type 1 and early detection of malignant peripheral nerve sheath tumors

Version: 2 Date: 3 December 2012

Reviewer: Matthias Bache

Reviewer’s report:

This revised manuscript was improved. However, prescreening is only partially useful, because two of the five identified genes retain their statistical significance in the final analysis. The reevaluation of the identified genes remains preliminary. It was carried out in only small groups with using the one-sided t-test. Data of EGFR has not been reevaluated.

Minor Essential Revisions

The data for the new additional table are wrong and need to be reviewed (eg, averages and p-values of RANTES and IGFBP1). In addition, to reevaluate the array data the authors should analyze control samples and NF1-patient samples with a two site test.

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

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests