Reviewer's report

Title: Phenotype, donor age and gender affect function of human bone marrow-derived Mesenchymal Stromal Cells

Version: 6 Date: 3 May 2013

Reviewer: Donald Phinney

Reviewer's report:

The authors have addressed in a comprehensive manner all criticisms raised during the initial review of the manuscript. Therefore, no additional revisions to the experimental results are required. However, it is the opinion of this reviewer that the Discussion section of the manuscript is extremely verbose. In many cases it reiterates much of the information contained within the Results section of the paper - the description of the surface phenotype analysis encompasses an entire page - and other sections read like a review. I appreciate that the authors expanded the section to better justify their approach. However, it is highly recommended that the authors reduce the length of the Discussion to improve readability and content, e.g. state the implications of the findings and how they advance the field or challenge existing data.

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 I have no competing interests.