Reviewer's report

Title: Differential endothelial cell gene expression by African Americans versus Caucasian Americans: A possible contribution to health disparity in vascular disease and cancer

Version: 2 Date: 4 August 2010

Reviewer: Ding Ma

Reviewer's report:

Reviewer comments to author:
1) General comments:
This experimental paper by Peng Wei et al has investigated the possibility that genetic differences affecting the biology of the vascular endothelium could be a factor contributing to this health disparity. The study is interesting. To date, few studies had been performed on the role of vascular endothelium in health disparity of African Americans versus Caucasian Americans.

2) Specific recommendations for revision:
   a) Major points:
   1. The statistical methods were not clearly shown in this manuscript, which makes the readers confused.
   2. Only the samples of AA (n=21) and CA (n=17) were applied for the microarray profiling, so it is difficult to evaluate the rationality of the results. It’s better to increase the samples to confirm the results.
   3. Why chose the 20-29 year old AA and CA volunteers to participate? What’s the evidence?

   b) Minor point:
   1. Some of references are too obsolete and should be updated.

Which journal?: Appropriate or potentially appropriate for BMC Medicine: an article of importance in its field

What next?: Accept for publication in BMC Medicine after minor essential revisions

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.