Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Expression of matrix metalloproteinase-1 (MMP-1) in wistar rat’s intervertebral disc after experimentally induced sciotic deformity

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 23 January 2011

**Reviewer:** Angelo Gabriele Aulisa

**Reviewer’s report:**

**Major Compulsory Revisions**

The subject treated by the authors is not a novelty but being an experimental study is very interesting.

1. The methods are appropriate and well described, but would be interesting to create a group of rats with 50° to be sacrificed after 70 days in which the fixator was removed at 35 days. This might help us to understand if the disk’s change were transitory or permanent.

2. The data are well written but two tables including results of the score and statistical data would be very useful. The first one should insert 3 groups (page 10 line 17), in the second the difference between convex and concave side in 3 groups (page 11 line 11).

3. The discussion is too long compared to the conclusion and need minor revision.

**Minor revision:**

- Pag 4 line 6: … collagenous (1,2, Urban Jp2003) …. Change in … collagenous (1,2, 3) ….


**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

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