Reviewer's report

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

Version: 1 Date: 14 March 2011

Reviewer: oddmund johansen

Reviewer's report:

Minor Essential Revisions:
The paper needs minor essential revisions.

1. Is the question posed by the authors new and well defined?
Answer: yes.

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described, and are sufficient details provided to replicate the work?
Answer: In the chapter “Statistical Analyses” I would like to see a description of the test used for the analyses of correlation.

3. Are the data sound and well controlled?
Answer: yes.

4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?
Answer: yes.

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?
Answer: Under “Conclusion” it should be mentioned that the literature indicate that disc degeneration is associated with an over-expression of several MMPs, and their inhibitors (TIMPs). The present work did address only MMP-1.

6. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?
Answer: yes.

7. Is the writing acceptable?
a) Page 5 line 2: “collagens tyes I,-- “should probably be changed to “collagens types I,---“.
b) On page 15 line 3: “between fibrost-like and ----“should probably be changed to:” between fibrocyte-like and …….“
c) Under “References” number 13. the title of the paper is “:Is the chemistry of collagen---“.

Under Figure Legends:
All the figure legends should be modified so each figure could be understood to a higher degree just by looking on the figure text and the figure itself. For instance in Figure 5, it would be fine to have a short description of what treatment was given in the group A and what the control discs (B) went through.

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

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