Reviewer's report

Title: DNA methylation changes in ovarian cancer are cumulative with disease progression and identify tumor stage.

Version: 2 Date: 15 February 2008

Reviewer: Kenneth Nephew

Reviewer's report:

This is a well conceived and novel study. The study is unique in scope, as no such analysis has been reported for ovarian cancer (and few other cancers in that regard). The study is thorough and well done. The results are important and should be published.

Discretionary Revisions:

All tumors are classified as <2 or >4 years. Did the authors examine tumor samples falling between 2 and 4 years? If so, what were the results of those analyses?

If 24 loci are tested, by chance alone, at least one marker would have a p-value of 5% (vs. no difference in methylation between short and long groups). The authors may want to comment on this.

page 9- multiple periods in red text should be removed.

What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest 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.