Reviewer's report

Title: Molecular Apocrine Breast Cancer: Gene Expression Meta-Analysis with Network Reconstruction Supports a Causal Role for Androgen Receptor and Implies Interactions with the ErbB Family

Version: 2 Date: 22 June 2009

Reviewer: Paul T Spellman

Reviewer's report:

1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined?
Yes, the authors wish to determine if two ER- breast cancer subgroups are the same and what biology might be associated with this subtype.

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described?
yes

3. Are the data sound?
yes

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

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?
yes

6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated?
yes

7. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished?
yes

8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?
Title is too ambitious. "Meta-analysis of Gene Expression supports the existence of Molecular Apocrine Breast Cancer and the participation of AR"
9. Is the writing acceptable?

yes

Overall the manuscript is appropriate for publishing. The results could use shortening and some of the approaches could be moved to the methods. Pathway figures are not terribly compelling and could be safely removed.