Reviewer's report

Title: MicroRNA profiling of diverse endothelial cell types

Version: 4 Date: 17 October 2011

Reviewer: Hanjoong Jo

Reviewer's report:

In this revision, the authors responded to the reviewers' critiques and addressed several but without addressing what is the most important criticism raised by this reviewer regarding the limited sample numbers. Limited sample numbers: Essentially single RNA samples obtained from individual ECs were used in duplicate gene array analysis. At minimum three independent biological replicates are needed for meaningful and statistically analyzable data. This is the most significant weakness of this manuscript. In response they cite many papers and this reviewer read some of them, which report as following:


Tijsen et al. Circ Res 2010:106:1035-9. “A miRNA array was performed on plasma of 12 healthy controls and 12 HF patients. From this array, we selected 16 miRNAs for a second clinical study in 39 healthy controls and in 50 cases with reports of dyspnea....”

These papers do not support the authors’ argument at all and this reviewer’s criticism is still not resolved.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.