Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Molecular prediction for atherogenic risks across different cell types of leukocytes

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 10 October 2011

**Reviewer:** Xiaochao Ma

**Reviewer’s report:**

The diagnosis of atherosclerosis is a very difficult problem in clinic, because there is no obvious symptom during the development of atherosclerosis. There is an urgent need to address this issue. In the manuscript, “Molecular prediction for atherogenic risks across different cell types of leukocytes” by Cheng et al., the authors proposed a new atherosclerosis diagnosis tool based on gene information.

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. The microarray platform of the test set 3 ATHERO1 is Affymetrix HG-U133A GeneChips, which is different from the training set and other 2 sets (Affymetrix HG-U133 plus 2.0). How did authors deal with these different microarray platforms?

Minor Essential Revisions

2. This is a pioneering work in atherosclerosis diagnose using gene profiling. The authors should discuss more about the potential implication and problem of this approach in diagnose of atherosclerosis.

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**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'