Reviewer's report

Title: Mining SOM expression portraits: Feature selection and integrating concepts of molecular function

Version: 1 Date: 3 December 2011

Reviewer: Jason Moore

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

Minor Essential Revisions

1) Would be nice to see a paragraph in the intro on what SOMs are for those not familiar with the method.

2) Is there a way to determine statistical significance with your SOM methods using permutation testing or bootstrapping? Might be nice to say a few words about how this could be done.

3) Would be nice to see a paragraph in the summary and conclusions describing in more detail what new biology this method revealed above and beyond what was described in your previous SOM paper.

Discretionary Revisions

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