Reviewer's report

Title: Decreased PCSK9 expression in human Hepatocellular Carcinoma

Version: 3 Date: 30 March 2015

Reviewer: Bertrand Cariou

Reviewer's report:

The revised version has been improved by adding the expression data of LDL-R that correlates with those of PCSK9. However, some questions remain, to my opinion, unanswered. This is notably the case concerning the relationship between HCC, fibrosis and plasma PCSK9 concentrations.

Additional comments:
- to validate the hypothesis that PCSK9 in HCC downregulates LDL-R expression at a post-transcriptional level, LDL-R mRNA should be measured in HCC.
- abstract (conclusions): conversely increased LDL-R expression rather than decreased...
- the discussion is too long.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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