Reviewer’s report

Title: Association study of two inflammation related polymorphisms with susceptibility to hepatocellular carcinoma: a meta-analysis

Version: 2 Date: 18 November 2013

Reviewer: Hua Zhao

Reviewer’s report:

Overall, this is an interesting meta-analysis focusing on two genetic polymorphisms in miR-146 and miR-499 and their relationships with HCC. The study is well-written. The analysis is well-executed. However, the scope of the study is limited.

There is no major essential revisions.

Minor essential revisions:

1. In the abstract, it is confusing to declare that "miR-146 and miR-499 are involved in inflammation" as the reason to link these two with HCC.

2. The discussion section needs to be strengthened.

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

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I have no conflict to declare.