Reviewer's report

Title: c-Met in esophageal squamous cell carcinoma: an independent prognostic factor and potential therapeutic target

Version: 5 Date: 1 April 2015

Reviewer: Jochen Lennerz

Reviewer's report:

Dear Dr. Ozwa and team,

I appreciate all your hard work and believe the clarity of the manuscript has substantially increased.

Major Compulsory Revisions
I have no comments

Minor Essential Revisions
1) Page 8, lines 116-117: ROC curve methodology. Please use wording as stated in the rebuttal.
   to explain that the authors took patient survival into account to determine the actual H-score cut-off.
   The authors may want to discuss the limitations of this approach with one brief sentence
2) The compound applied does not inhibit the rearrangement (page 20/21 lines 326/327). Please revise and clarify that there are other protein targeted by the compound (=gene products) ALK, ROS1.
   The authors can check www.proteinatlas.org for ALK-staining in normal esophagus that looks fairly similar to their "high expression".
3) Table 1 smoking and alcohol
   The authors should add an "o" in history.

Discretionary Revisions
In Figure 4 and Figure 5 the statistical comparison bars/stars are a little confusing.
Please consider the same approach as in your Figure 7A, i.e., to highlight the key comparisons (which I like a lot).

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