Reviewer's report

Title: Methylation status of SFRPs gene family in cutaneous squamous cell carcinomas

Version: 2 Date: 19 May 2015

Reviewer: Frank Arfuso

Reviewer's report:

I find that the manuscript by Liang et al, to be a significant addition to the knowledge surrounding the role of the SFRP family and its association with cancer formation/progression. As such, I would recommend its acceptance for publication with a few corrections as outlined below. I have also attached a pdf version containing errors/omissions that should be corrected.

Minor Essential Revisions
1. The word “Data” requires a plural.
2. The word “Spectra” requires a plural.
3. Acronyms should be spelled out at their first use (e.g. ROC- line 94)
4. There should be a comma separating the independent clauses of a compound sentence, and a list of three or more items should have a comma between the last two items in the list.
5. The use of SFRP indicates that you are referring to the gene, so there is no need to write gene after it, otherwise refer to it as SFRP gene.
6. How was the histological classification obtained? Were pathology reports used for this?
7. Line 126- omits recently published work by Schiefer et al, 2014 re SFRP methylation status in glioma cell lines.
8. Line 175 states “may be one of the best biomarkers for melanoma diagnosis.” I assume this is a typographic error since the study only dealt with SCC.
9. What do SFRP_1 and SFRP_2 refer to in Table 2?

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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

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.