Reviewer's report

Title: Prognostic significance of Traf2- and Nck- interacting kinase (TNIK) in colorectal cancer

Version: 2 Date: 12 April 2015

Reviewer: Hideki Furuya

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript entitled ‘Prognostic significance of Traf2- and Nck- interacting kinase (TNIK) in colorectal cancer’ by Takahashi, H. et al. describes that Traf2- and Nck-interacting kinase, which is selected from 11 identified candidate genes, is overexpressed in colorectal cancer and patients with high expression of TNIK shows poor prognosis. The experiments in this study are large scale and the results are very interesting. However, some major revisions are necessary or publication on BMC Cancer.

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. Authors may want to heat map and/or signaling pathway map from microarray data.
2. It is still unclear why authors choose TNIK from 11 candidates, although authors explain the reasons in the manuscript. Please explain using your results from this study. Does TNIK show the highest fold-change and/or the best p-value?
3. The same as #2, authors may want to add a table describing 11 candidate genes and their p-values and fold-changes as well as brief gene functions.
4. Have you done co-expression analysis? If not, I would recommend you to do the analysis based on microarray data. If yes, please include the results in the manuscript.

Minor Essential Revisions

1. Page 5, line 174; microarray sample numbers are unclear. 153 cases from 220 cases? Are they the same cohort or different? Please clarify. If they are different cohort, please provide patients characteristics table.
2. Page 5, line 190; Based on GEO information that you provided, you have employed 271 cases, but you describe only 220 cases in the manuscript. Why?

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest 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.