Reviewer's report

Title: Integrative analysis of breast cancer profiles in TCGA by TNBC subgrouping reveals novel microRNA-specific clusters, including miR-17-92a, distinguishing basal-like 1 and basal-like 2 TNBC subtypes

Version: 1 Date: 31 Oct 2019

Reviewer: Daniel Dibaba

Reviewer's report:

Using the Cancer Genome Atlas Dataset, the authors investigated the expression of microRNAs and mRNAs in triple negative breast cancer (TNBC). The authors observed that basal-like 1, basal-like 2, mesenchymal, mesenchymal stem-like, immunomodulatory, and luminal androgen receptor type TBNC distributions were different by age, race, vital status, and disease types. The authors found that some mRNA were up-regulated while others were down regulated in basal-1 vs basal-2 TNBC. The authors also showed some microRNAs were differentially expressed in basal-1 and basal-2 TNBC. The article was well written and very clear.

Comments:

1. In Table 3, the authors may add the P-values for the correlation coefficients.

2. In Table 1, African American is a more commonly used term than Afro-American.

3. Figure 5: To improve readability, can you use a white background with black font color?

4. Figure 6: The dendrogram is not labelled or the labels are not visible and it is difficult to understand, can you please label it or make labels more visible?

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes
Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review? If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interest.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.
I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal