Reviewer’s report

Title: A 3-biomarker-panel predicts renal outcome in chronic kidney disease patients

Version: 1 Date: 18 September 2014

Reviewer: Atsuko Kamijo-Ikemori

Reviewer’s report:

1. Various renal disease, FGS, MCD, LN, IgA and so on, were included in this study.
   Is a proximal injury in different renal disease induced by a common mechanism?

2. In addition to serum creatinine, GFR or creatinine clearance should be evaluated.
   Are the identified genes, BMP7, THBS1 and TRIB1 correlated with the decline of GFR or creatinine clearance?

3. Did the identified genes, BMP7, THBS1 and TRIB1 really predict renal prognosis
   better than traditional markers such as urinary protein or eGFR? Are cut off value, sensitivity and specificity measured? Analysis of multivariate cox proportional hazards model should be performed in order to find an independent factor for progression of renal disease.

4. Did the expressions of the identified genes change in response to some interventions?
   Does the degree of their gene expressions decide a prognosis of renal disease regardless of treatment?

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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.