Reviewer’s report

Title: In silico identification of drug targets in smoking-induced lung cancer

Version: 0 Date: 03 Mar 2017

Reviewer: Hongliang Liu

Reviewer’s report:

The manuscript have been improved greatly after addressing the comments of reviewers. However, I still have several minor comments for the authors to consider.

Unless the authors could provide addition evidence for those identified genes/pathways, I agree with the comments of two other reviewers that the title containing "drug targets" is inappropriate as the authors just performed PPI analysis and enrichments analysis using the lists of genes with differential expression between lung cancer patients and health controls of smokers.

The results of PPI and enrichment analysis would be more meaningful and reliable if the authors could input multiple DE lists from different independent studies instead of lists from same study with different cut-off points.

Is it the right reference cited in line 8 on page 6 for the data source? The authors claimed that they compared the expression data of 97 smokers with lung cancer and 90 without lung cancer. However, I just found 34 smokers and 23 non-smokers in the cited reference. Did the authors perform same quality control procedure with the original publication?

Please give the reference of the used FDR method.

Some grammatical mistakes should be corrected in the manuscript to make it readable.

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.

Unable to assess

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

No
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:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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