Reviewer's report

Title: Expression of Matrix Metalloproteinase-9 as an Independent Prognostic Factor for Recurrence in Patients with Resected Lung Adenocarcinoma

Version: 2 Date: 4 November 2014

Reviewer: Ralph A. A Schmid

Reviewer's report:

1. Recommendation: minor essential revision

2. Specific comments:

The manuscript by Lee et al. analyzed by immunohistochemistry the expression of Matrix Metalloproteinase-9 (MMP-9) in non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) and revealed that MMP-9 level i) positively correlates with prognosis of human patients with lung adenocarcinoma and ii) is an independent predictor of tumor relapse of surgically resected lung adenocarcinoma.

The work by Lee et al. answered an interesting yet not well understood question and is of great clinical relevance. The method used in the work was appropriate and well controlled, and the conclusion is properly supported by their experimental data. The only concern that this reviewer raises is that a negative IgG control should be provided. This will validate the expression signals of MMP-9 obtained with MMP-9 antibodies used in the study were specific (Figure 1).

In general, this is a well-done study and deserves to be published after the minor revision.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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