Reviewer’s report

Title: The role of epithelial-mesenchymal transition in the post-lung transplantation bronchiolitis obliterans

Version: 0 Date: 07 Aug 2017

Reviewer: Alessandro Bertani

Reviewer’s report:

The topic of the manuscript would be of some interest at a basic scientific level, but I have some major concerns to submit to the authors.

1) The English language is often difficult to understand. The text of the manuscript should be revised.

2) The design of the study is not completely convincing. I would suggest a control group using Lewis to Lewis transplantation in order to compare with F344 to Lewis. A thoracotomy in F344 rats does not seem a viable approach to define a control group to transplanted rats that develop OB. The risk is to observe findings that are not related to OPB but rather to other complications of the lung tx procedure itself.

3) I would suggest revisiting the definition of OB as CLAD. This is an established approach when referring to chronic lung failure after LTX.

Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of limited interest

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

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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 interests

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