

## Reviewer's report

**Title:**Quantitative assessment of the diagnostic role of APC promoter methylation in non-small cell lung cancer

**Version:1****Date:**5 December 2013

**Reviewer number:**1

### Reviewer's report:

This manuscript studied the relation between the APC promotor methylation and non-small cell lung cancer by using meta-analysis of previously published manuscripts. The study was performed rigorously and the findings are interesting. In general, I'd recommend publication if the authors can address my concerns.

#### Major Compulsory Revisions

None

#### Minor Essential Revisions

1. The authors need to improve the quality of writing and presentation. It's sometimes not clear what the authors were trying to say, for example,
  - a. "The proportions of the samples in stage I were counted and the ranges were 32.1-100% and 70-100% respectively". What do the two ranges refer to?
  - b. In Table 1, column headers. What does "M+/M-" mean?
  - c. In Table 4, "P-values from t-test or Wilcoxon sum-rank test". It should be "rank-sum test" and it's not clear which p-values are from t-test and which are from Wilcoxon test.
2. Some spaces were omitted probably due to the document format conversation. For example,
  - a. page 4: "17retrieved studies"
  - b. page 14: "Theestimate"

#### Discretionary Revisions

1. It's not clear how the analysis of TCGA dataset helps to validate the meta-analysis findings. The authors simply listed numbers from the TCGA analysis without much discussion. A thoroughly discussion and attempts to "integrate" this analysis with the meta-analysis, as claimed by the authors in the background section, is desired.

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

**Quality of written English:**Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:**No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.