Reviewer’s report

Title: Reduction of novel circulating long-chain fatty acids and colorectal cancer patients is independent of tumor burden and correlates with age.

Version: 1 Date: 18 October 2010

Reviewer: Huanlong Qin

Reviewer’s report:

The authors of the present study investigated that the reduction of novel circulating long-chain fatty acids in colorectal cancer patients is independent of tumor burden and correlates with age. The current results showed that CRC-446 levels are not affected by conventional CRC treatment and inversely correlate with age, which suggest that reduced serum CRC-446 levels likely exist prior to the development of CRC. This study addressed an important topic. The scientific soundness is good, and also interest to the readers. However, the language is poor throughout and requires proof-reading with native speaker before resubmission. Overall, this lessened the enthusiasm for the manuscript.

Specific points:

1. You should avoid use “specific biomarkers” in the whole text, because you did not perform the validated experiment for the potential biomarkers in other serum of cancers, such as: gastric cancer, breast cancer, and so on.
2. You should could not copy the other studies for the lots of contents, especially in the section of Introduction.
3. The language is poor throughout and requires proof-reading with native speaker before resubmission.
4. You should reference to the recent studies for the biomarkers of CRC, especially in the Introduction and Discussion of your manuscript.


**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests