Over half a million patients have been treated with Avastin so far, and a comprehensive clinical program with over 450 clinical trials is investigating the further use of Avastin in the treatment of multiple cancer types (including colorectal, breast, non-small cell lung, brain, gastric, ovarian and prostate) in different settings (*e.g.*, advanced or early stage disease). Importantly, Avastin® has shown promise as a co-therapeutic, demonstrating efficacy when combined with a broad range of chemotherapies and other anti-cancer treatments. Phase-III studies have been published demonstrating the beneficial effects of combining bevacizumab with standard chemotherapeutic regimens (see, *e.g.*, Saltz et al., 2008, *J. Clin. Oncol.*, 26:2013-2019; Yang et al., 2008, *Clin. Cancer Res.*, 14:5893-5899; Hurwitz et al., 2004, *N. Engl. J. Med.*, 350:2335-2342). However, as in previous studies of angiogenic inhibitors, some of these phase-III studies have shown that a portion of patients experience incomplete response to the addition of bevacizumab (Avastin®) to their chemotherapeutic regimens.

Accordingly, there is a need for methods of determining those patients that respond to or are likely to respond to combination therapies comprising angiogenesis inhibitors, in particular, bevacizumab (Avastin®). Thus, the technical problem underlying the present invention is the provision of methods and means for the identification of (a) patient(s) suffering from or prone to suffer from pancreatic cancer, in particular metastatic pancreatic cancer, who may benefit from the addition of angiogenesis inhibitors, in particular, bevacizumab (Avastin®), to chemotherapeutic therapies, *e.g.*, gemcitabine-erlotinib (GE) therapy.

The technical problem is solved by provision of the embodiments characterized in the claims.

In one aspect, there is provided an in vitro method for the identification of a patient responsive to or sensitive to the addition of bevacizumab treatment to a chemotherapy regimen, said method comprising determining the protein expression level of one or more of VEGFA, VEGFR2 and PLGF in a sample from a patient suspected to suffer from or being prone to suffer from pancreatic cancer, whereby an increased expression level of one or more of VEGFA, VEGFR2 and PLGF relative to control expression levels determined in patients suffering from pancreatic cancer is indicative of a sensitivity of the patient to the addition of bevacizumab to said chemotherapy regimen; wherein the pancreatic cancer is

metastatic pancreatic cancer; the chemotherapy regimen comprises gemcitiabine and erlotinib; and the sample is a blood plasma sample.

In another aspect, there is provided an in vitro method of predicting the response to or sensitivity to the addition of bevacizumab to a chemotherapy regimen of a patient suspected to suffer from, suffering from or prone to suffer from pancreatic cancer comprising determining the protein expression level of one or more of VEGFA, VEGFR2 and PLGF in a patient sample; wherein the pancreatic cancer is metastatic pancreatic cancer; the chemotherapy regimen comprises gemcitiabine and erlotinib; and the sample is a blood plasma sample.

The present disclosure~~invention, therefore,~~ provides a method for improving the treatment effect of a chemotherapy regimen of a patient suffering from pancreatic cancer by adding bevacizumab to said chemotherapy regimen, said method comprising:

(a) determining the protein expression level of one or more of VEGFA, VEGFR2 and PLGF in a patient sample; and

(b) administering bevacizumab in combination with a chemotherapy regimen to the patient having an increased expression level of one or more of VEGFA, VEGFR2

and PLGF relative to control expression levels determined in patients diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

The present diclosure~~invention~~ relates to a method for improving the treatment effect of a chemotherapy regimen of a patient suffering from pancreatic cancer by adding bevacizumab to the chemotherapy regimen, said method comprising:

(a) obtaining a sample from said patient;

(b) determining the protein expression level of one or more of VEGFA, VEGFR2 and PLGF; and

(c) administering bevacizumab in combination with a chemotherapy regimen to the patient having an increased expression level of one or more of VEGFA, VEGFR2 and PLGF relative to control expression levels determined in patients diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

The present disclosure~~invention~~ relates to a method for improving the overall survival of a patient suffering from pancreatic cancer by adding bevacizumab to a chemotherapy regimen, said method comprising:

(a) determining the protein expression level of one or more of VEGFA, VEGFR2 and PLGF in a patient sample; and

(b) administering bevacizumab in combination with the chemotherapy regimen to the patient having an increased expression level of one or more of VEGFA, VEGFR2 and PLGF relative to control expression levels determined in patients diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

The present disclosure~~invention~~ relates to a method for improving the overall survival of a patient suffering from pancreatic cancer by adding bevacizumab to a chemotherapy regimen, said method comprising:

(a) obtaining a sample from said patient;

(b) determining the protein expression level of one or more of VEGFA, VEGFR2 and PLGF; and

(c) administering bevacizumab in combination with the chemotherapy regimen to the patient having an increased expression level of one or more of VEGFA, VEGFR2

and PLGF relative to control expression levels determined in patients diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

The present disclosure~~invention~~ relates to a method for improving the overall survival of a patient suffering from metastatic pancreatic cancer by adding bevacizumab to a chemotherapy regimen, said method comprising:

(a) determining the protein expression level of one or more of VEGFA, VEGFR2 and PLGF in a patient sample; and

(b) administering bevacizumab in combination with the chemotherapy regimen to the patient having an increased expression level of one or more of VEGFA, VEGFR2 and PLGF relative to control expression levels determined in patients diagnosed with metastatic pancreatic cancer,

wherein the chemotherapy regimen comprises gemcitabine-erlotinib therapy.

The present disclosure~~invention~~ relates to a method for improving the overall survival of a patient suffering from metastatic pancreatic cancer by adding bevacizumab to a chemotherapy regimen, said method comprising:

(a) obtaining a sample from said patient;

(b) determining the protein expression level of one or more of VEGFA, VEGFR2 and PLGF; and

(c) administering bevacizumab in combination with the chemotherapy regimen to the patient having an increased expression level of one or more of VEGFA, VEGFR2 and PLGF relative to control expression levels determined in patients diagnosed with metastatic pancreatic cancer,

wherein the chemotherapy regimen comprises gemcitabine-erlotinib therapy.

The present disclosure~~invention~~ relates to a method for improving the progression free survival of a patient suffering from pancreatic cancer by adding bevacizumab to a chemotherapy regimen, said method comprising:

(a) determining the protein expression level of one or more of VEGFA, VEGFR2 and PLGF in a patient sample; and

(b) administering bevacizumab in combination with the chemotherapy regimen to the patient having an increased expression level of one or more of VEGFA, VEGFR2

and PLGF relative to control expression levels determined in patients diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

The present disclosure~~invention~~ relates to a method for improving the progression free survival of a patient suffering from pancreatic cancer by adding bevacizumab to a chemotherapy regimen, said method comprising:

(a) obtaining a sample from said patient;

(b) determining the protein expression level of one or more of VEGFA, VEGFR2 and PLGF; and

(c) administering bevacizumab in combination with the chemotherapy regimen to the patient having an increased expression level of one or more of VEGFA, VEGFR2 and PLGF relative to control expression levels determined in patients diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

The present disclosure~~invention~~ relates to a method for improving the progression free survival of a patient suffering from metastatic pancreatic cancer by adding bevacizumab to a chemotherapy regimen, said method comprising:

(a) determining the protein expression level of one or more of VEGFA, VEGFR2 and PLGF in a patient sample; and

(b) administering bevacizumab in combination with the chemotherapy regimen to the patient having an increased expression level of one or more of VEGFA, VEGFR2 and PLGF relative to control expression levels determined in patients diagnosed with metastatic pancreatic cancer,

wherein the chemotherapy regimen comprises gemcitabine-erlotinib therapy.

The present disclosure~~invention~~ relates to a method for improving the progression free survival of a patient suffering from metastatic pancreatic cancer by adding bevacizumab to a chemotherapy regimen, said method comprising:

(a) obtaining a sample from said patient;

(b) determining the protein expression level of one or more of VEGFA, VEGFR2 and PLGF; and

(c) administering bevacizumab in combination with the chemotherapy regimen to the patient having an increased expression level of one or more of VEGFA, VEGFR2

and PLGF relative to control expression levels determined in patients diagnosed with metastatic pancreatic cancer,

wherein the chemotherapy regimen comprises gemcitabine-erlotinib therapy.

The present disclosure~~invention~~ relates to a method for improving the overall survival of a patient suffering from pancreatic cancer by adding bevacizumab to a chemotherapy regimen, said method comprising:

(a) determining the protein expression level of VEGFA or VEGFR2 in a patient sample; and

(b) administering bevacizumab in combination with the chemotherapy regimen to the patient having an increased expression level of VEGFA or VEGFR2 relative to control expression levels determined in patients diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

The present disclosure~~invention~~ relates to a method for improving the overall survival of a patient suffering from pancreatic cancer by adding bevacizumab to a chemotherapy regimen, said method comprising:

(a) obtaining a sample from said patient;

(b) determining the protein expression level of VEGFA or VEGFR2; and

(c) administering bevacizumab in combination with the chemotherapy regimen to the patient having an increased expression level VEGFA or VEGFR2 relative to control expression levels determined in patients diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

The present disclosure~~invention~~ relates to a method for improving the overall survival of a patient suffering from metastatic pancreatic cancer by adding bevacizumab to a chemotherapy regimen, said method comprising:

(a) determining the protein expression level of VEGFA or VEGFR2 in a patient sample; and

(b) administering bevacizumab in combination with the chemotherapy regimen to the patient having an increased expression level of VEGFA or VEGFR2 relative to control expression levels determined in patients diagnosed with metastatic pancreatic cancer,

wherein the chemotherapy regimen comprises gemcitabine-erlotinib therapy.

The present disclosure~~invention~~ relates to a method for improving the overall survival of a patient suffering from metastatic pancreatic cancer by adding bevacizumab to a chemotherapy regimen, said method comprising:

(a) obtaining a sample from said patient;

(b) determining the protein expression level of VEGFA or VEGFR2; and

(c) administering bevacizumab in combination with the chemotherapy regimen to the patient having an increased expression level of VEGFA or VEGFR2 relative to control expression levels determined in patients diagnosed with metastatic pancreatic cancer,

wherein the chemotherapy regimen comprises gemcitabine-erlotinib therapy.

The present disclosure~~invention~~ relates to a method for improving the progression free survival of a patient suffering from pancreatic cancer by adding bevacizumab to a chemotherapy regimen, said method comprising:

(a) determining the protein expression level of VEGFA or PLGF in a patient sample; and

(b) administering bevacizumab in combination with the chemotherapy regimen to the patient having an increased expression level of VEGFA or PLGF relative to control expression levels determined in patients diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

The present disclosure~~invention~~ relates to a method for improving the progression free survival of a patient suffering from pancreatic cancer by adding bevacizumab to a chemotherapy regimen, said method comprising:

(a) obtaining a sample from said patient;

(b) determining the protein expression level of VEGFA or PLGF; and

(c) administering bevacizumab in combination with the chemotherapy regimen to the patient having an increased expression level of VEGFA or PLGF relative to control expression levels determined in patients diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

The present disclosure~~invention~~ relates to a method for improving the progression free survival of a patient suffering from metastatic pancreatic cancer by adding bevacizumab to a chemotherapy regimen, said method comprising:

(a) determining the protein expression level of VEGFA or PLGF in a patient sample; and

(b) administering bevacizumab in combination with the chemotherapy regimen to the patient having an increased expression level of VEGFA or PLGF relative to control expression levels determined in patients diagnosed with metastatic pancreatic cancer,

wherein the chemotherapy regimen comprises gemcitabine-erlotinib therapy.

The present disclosure~~invention~~ relates to a method for improving the progression free survival of a patient suffering from metastatic pancreatic cancer by adding bevacizumab to a chemotherapy regimen, said method comprising:

(a) obtaining a sample from said patient;

(b) determining the protein expression level of VEGFA or PLGF; and

(c) administering bevacizumab in combination with the chemotherapy regimen to the patient having an increased expression level of VEGFA or PLGF relative to control expression levels determined in patients diagnosed with metastatic pancreatic cancer,

wherein the chemotherapy regimen comprises gemcitabine-erlotinib therapy.

The disclosure~~invention~~ provides a method for improving the overall survival of a patient suffering from pancreatic cancer by adding bevacizumab to a chemotherapy regimen, said method comprising:

(a) determining the protein expression level of VEGFA, VEGFR2 and PLGF in a patient sample; and

(b) administering bevacizumab in combination with a chemotherapy regimen to the patient having an increased combined expression level of VEGFA, VEGFR2 and PLGF relative to a control combined expression level determined in patients diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

The pancreatic cancer may be metastatic pancreatic cancer.

Accordingly, the disclosure~~invention~~ relates to a method for improving the overall survival of a patient suffering from pancreatic cancer by adding bevacizumab to a chemotherapy regimen, said method comprising:

(a) obtaining a sample from said patient;

(b) determining the protein expression level of VEGFA, VEGFR2 and PLGF; and

(c) administering bevacizumab in combination with a chemotherapy regimen to the patient having an increased combined expression level of VEGFA, VEGFR2 and PLGF relative to a control combined expression level determined in patients diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

The pancreatic cancer may be metastatic pancreatic cancer.

The disclosure~~invention~~, therefore, relates to a method for improving the overall survival of a patient suffering from metastatic pancreatic cancer by adding bevacizumab to a chemotherapy regimen, said method comprising:

(a) determining the protein expression level of VEGFA, VEGFR2 and PLGF in a patient sample; and

(b) administering bevacizumab in combination the chemotherapy regimen to the patient having an increased combined expression level of VEGFA, VEGFR2 and PLGF relative to a control combined expression level determined in patients diagnosed with metastatic pancreatic cancer,

wherein the chemotherapy regimen comprises gemcitabine-erlotinib therapy.

The disclosure~~invention~~ relates to a method for improving the overall survival of a patient suffering from metastatic pancreatic cancer by adding bevacizumab to a chemotherapy regimen, said method comprising:

(a) obtaining a sample from said patient;

(b) determining the protein expression level of VEGFA, VEGFR2 and PLGF; and

(c) administering bevacizumab in combination with the chemotherapy regimen to the patient having an increased combined expression level of VEGFA, VEGFR2 and PLGF relative to a control combined expression level determined in patients diagnosed with metastatic pancreatic cancer,

wherein the chemotherapy regimen comprises gemcitabine-erlotinib therapy.

The disclosure~~invention~~ provides a method for improving the progression free survival of a patient suffering from pancreatic cancer by adding bevacizumab to a chemotherapy regimen, said method comprising:

(a) determining the protein expression level of VEGFA, VEGFR2 and PLGF in a patient sample; and

(b) administering bevacizumab in combination with a chemotherapy regimen to the patient having an increased combined expression level of VEGFA, VEGFR2 and PLGF relative to a control combined expression level determined in patients diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

The pancreatic cancer may be metastatic pancreatic cancer.

Accordingly, the disclosure~~invention~~ relates to a method for improving the progression free survival of a patient suffering from pancreatic cancer by adding bevacizumab to a chemotherapy regimen, said method comprising:

(a) obtaining a sample from said patient;

(b) determining the protein expression level of VEGFA, VEGFR2 and PLGF; and

(c) administering bevacizumab in combination with a chemotherapy regimen to the patient having an increased combined expression level of VEGFA, VEGFR2 and PLGF relative to a control combined expression level determined in patients diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

The pancreatic cancer may be metastatic pancreatic cancer.

The disclosure~~invention~~, therefore, relates to a method for improving the progression free survival of a patient suffering from metastatic pancreatic cancer by adding bevacizumab to a chemotherapy regimen, said method comprising:

(a) determining the protein expression level of VEGFA, VEGFR2 and PLGF in a patient sample; and

(b) administering bevacizumab in combination the chemotherapy regimen to the patient having an increased combined expression level of VEGFA, VEGFR2 and PLGF relative to a control combined expression level determined in patients diagnosed with metastatic pancreatic cancer,

wherein the chemotherapy regimen comprises gemcitabine-erlotinib therapy.

The disclosure~~invention~~ relates to a method for improving the progression free survival of a patient suffering from metastatic pancreatic cancer by adding bevacizumab to a chemotherapy regimen, said method comprising:

(a) obtaining a sample from said patient;

(b) determining the protein expression level of VEGFA, VEGFR2 and PLGF; and

(c) administering bevacizumab in combination with the chemotherapy regimen to the patient having an increased combined expression level of VEGFA, VEGFR2 and PLGF relative to a control combined expression level determined in patients diagnosed with metastatic pancreatic cancer,

wherein the chemotherapy regimen comprises gemcitabine-erlotinib therapy.

The disclosure~~invention~~ provides a method for improving the overall survival of a patient suffering from metastatic pancreatic cancer by adding bevacizumab to a chemotherapy regimen, said method comprising:

(a) determining the protein expression level of VEGFA and VEGFR2 in a patient sample; and

(b) administering bevacizumab in combination with a chemotherapy regimen to the patient having an increased combined expression level of VEGFA and VEGFR2 relative to a control combined expression level determined in patients diagnosed with metastatic pancreatic cancer.

Accordingly, the disclosure~~invention~~ relates to a method for improving the overall survival of a patient suffering from metastatic pancreatic cancer by adding bevacizumab to a chemotherapy regimen, said method comprising:

(a) obtaining a sample from said patient;

(b) determining the protein expression level of VEGFA and VEGFR2; and

(c) administering bevacizumab in combination with a chemotherapy regimen to the patient having an increased combined expression level of VEGFA and VEGFR2 relative to a control combined expression level determined in patients diagnosed with metastatic pancreatic cancer.

The disclosure~~invention~~, therefore, relates to a method for improving the overall survival of a patient suffering from metastatic pancreatic cancer by adding bevacizumab to a chemotherapy regimen, said method comprising:

(a) determining the protein expression level of VEGFA and VEGFR2 in a patient sample; and

(b) administering bevacizumab in combination the chemotherapy regimen to the patient having an increased combined expression level of VEGFA and VEGFR2 relative to a control combined expression level determined in patients diagnosed with metastatic pancreatic cancer,

wherein the chemotherapy regimen comprises gemcitabine-erlotinib therapy.

The disclosure~~invention~~ relates to a method for improving the overall survival of a patient suffering from metastatic pancreatic cancer by adding bevacizumab to a chemotherapy regimen, said method comprising:

(a) obtaining a sample from said patient;

(b) determining the protein expression level of VEGFA and VEGFR2; and

(c) administering bevacizumab in combination with the chemotherapy regimen to the patient having an increased combined expression level of VEGFA and VEGFR2 relative to a control combined expression level determined in patients diagnosed with metastatic pancreatic cancer,

wherein the chemotherapy regimen comprises gemcitabine-erlotinib therapy.

The disclosure~~invention~~ provides a method for improving the progression free survival of a patient suffering from metastatic pancreatic cancer by adding bevacizumab to a chemotherapy regimen, said method comprising:

(a) determining the protein expression level of VEGFA and VEGFR2 in a patient sample; and

(b) administering bevacizumab in combination with the chemotherapy regimen to the patient having an increased combined expression level of VEGFA and VEGFR2 relative to a control combined expression level determined in patients diagnosed with metastatic pancreatic cancer.

Accordingly, the disclosure~~invention~~ relates to a method for improving the progression free survival of a patient suffering from metastatic pancreatic cancer by adding bevacizumab to a chemotherapy regimen, said method comprising:

(a) obtaining a sample from said patient;

(b) determining the protein expression level of VEGFA and VEGFR2; and

(c) administering bevacizumab in combination with the chemotherapy regimen to the

patient having an increased combined expression level of VEGFA and VEGFR2 relative to a control combined expression level determined in patients diagnosed with metastatic pancreatic cancer.

The disclosure~~invention~~, therefore relates to a method for improving the progression free survival of a patient suffering from metastatic pancreatic cancer by adding bevacizumab to a chemotherapy regimen, said method comprising:

(a) determining the protein expression level of VEGFA and VEGFR2 in a patient sample; and

(b) administering bevacizumab in combination with the chemotherapy regimen to the patient having an increased combined expression level of VEGFA and VEGFR2 relative to a control combined expression level determined in patients diagnosed with metastatic pancreatic cancer,

wherein the chemotherapy regimen comprises gemcitabine-erlotinib therapy.

The disclosure~~invention~~ relates to a method for improving the progression free survival of a patient suffering from metastatic pancreatic cancer by adding bevacizumab to a chemotherapy regimen, said method comprising:

(a) obtaining a sample from said patient;

(b) determining the protein expression level of VEGFA and VEGFR2; and

(c) administering bevacizumab in combination with the chemotherapy regimen to the patient having an increased combined expression level of VEGFA and VEGFR2 relative to a control combined expression level determined in patients diagnosed with metastatic pancreatic cancer,

wherein the chemotherapy regimen comprises gemcitabine-erlotinib therapy.

The present disclosure~~invention~~ provides a method for improving the overall survival of a patient suffering from metastatic pancreatic cancer by adding bevacizumab to a chemotherapy regimen, said method comprising:

(a) determining the protein expression level of VEGFA and PLGF in a patient sample; and

(b) administering bevacizumab in combination with the chemotherapy regimen to the patient having an increased combined expression level of VEGFA and PLGF

relative to a combined control expression level determined in patients diagnosed with metastatic pancreatic cancer.

Accordingly, the present disclosure~~invention~~ relates to a method for improving the overall survival of a patient suffering from metastatic pancreatic cancer by adding bevacizumab to a chemotherapy regimen, said method comprising:

(a) obtaining a sample from said patient;

(b) determining the protein expression level of VEGFA and PLGF; and

(c) administering bevacizumab in combination with the chemotherapy regimen to the patient having an increased combined expression level of VEGFA and PLGF relative to a control combined expression level determined in patients diagnosed with metastatic pancreatic cancer.

The disclosure~~invention~~, therefore, relates to a method for improving the overall survival of a patient suffering from metastatic pancreatic cancer by adding bevacizumab to a chemotherapy regimen, said method comprising:

(a) determining the protein expression level of VEGFA and PLGF in a patient sample; and

(b) administering bevacizumab in combination with the chemotherapy regimen to the patient having an increased combined expression level of VEGFA and PLGF relative to a combined control expression level determined in patients diagnosed with metastatic pancreatic cancer,

wherein the chemotherapy regimen comprises gemcitabine-erlotinib therapy.

Accordingly, the present disclosure~~invention~~ relates to a method for improving the overall survival of a patient suffering from metastatic pancreatic cancer by adding bevacizumab to a chemotherapy regimen, said method comprising:

(a) obtaining a sample from said patient;

(b) determining the protein expression level of VEGFA and PLGF; and

(c) administering bevacizumab in combination with the chemotherapy regimen to the patient having an increased combined expression level of VEGFA and PLGF relative to a control combined expression level determined in patients diagnosed with metastatic pancreatic cancer,

wherein the chemotherapy regimen comprises gemcitabine-erlotinib therapy.

The present disclosure~~invention~~ provides a method for improving the progression-free survival of a patient suffering from metastatic pancreatic cancer by adding bevacizumab to a chemotherapy regimen, said method comprising:

(a) determining the protein expression level of VEGFA and PLGF in a patient sample; and

(b) administering bevacizumab in combination with the chemotherapy regimen to the patient having an increased combined expression level of VEGFA and PLGF relative to a combined control expression level determined in patients diagnosed with metastatic pancreatic cancer.

Accordingly, the present disclosure~~invention~~ relates to a method for improving the progression free survival of a patient suffering from metastatic pancreatic cancer by adding bevacizumab to a chemotherapy regimen, said method comprising:

(a) obtaining a sample from said patient;

(b) determining the protein expression level of VEGFA and PLGF; and

(c) administering bevacizumab in combination with the chemotherapy regimen to the patient having an increased combined expression level of VEGFA and PLGF relative to a control combined expression level determined in patients diagnosed with metastatic pancreatic cancer.

The disclosure~~invention~~, therefore, relates to a method for improving the progression free survival of a patient suffering from metastatic pancreatic cancer by adding bevacizumab to a chemotherapy regimen, said method comprising:

(a) determining the protein expression level of VEGFA and PLGF in a patient sample; and

(b) administering bevacizumab in combination with the chemotherapy regimen to the patient having an increased combined expression level of VEGFA and PLGF relative to a combined control expression level determined in patients diagnosed with metastatic pancreatic cancer,

wherein the chemotherapy regimen comprises gemcitabine-erlotinib therapy.

Accordingly, the present disclosure~~invention~~ relates to a method for improving the progression free survival of a patient suffering from metastatic pancreatic cancer by adding bevacizumab to a chemotherapy regimen, said method comprising:

(a) obtaining a sample from said patient;

(b) determining the protein expression level of VEGFA and PLGF; and

(c) administering bevacizumab in combination with the chemotherapy regimen to the patient having an increased combined expression level of VEGFA and PLGF relative to a control combined expression level determined in patients diagnosed with metastatic pancreatic cancer,

wherein the chemotherapy regimen comprises gemcitabine-erlotinib therapy.

The present disclosure~~invention~~ provides an in vitro method for the identification of a patient responsive to or sensitive to the addition of bevacizumab treatment to a chemotherapy regimen, said method comprising determining the protein expression level of one or more of VEGFA, VEGFR2 and PLGF in a sample from a patient suffering from, suspected to suffer from or being prone to suffer from pancreatic cancer, in particular metastatic pancreatic cancer, whereby an increased expression level of one or more of VEGFA, VEGFR2 and PLGF relative to control expression levels determined in patients suffering from pancreatic cancer, in particular metastatic pancreatic cancer, is indicative of a sensitivity of the patient to the addition of bevacizumab to said chemotherapy regimen. The chemotherapy regimen may comprise gemcitabine-erlotinib therapy.

Accordingly, the present disclosure~~invention~~ relates to an in vitro method for the identification of a patient responsive to or sensitive to the addition of bevacizumab treatment to a chemotherapy regimen, said method comprising:

(a) obtaining a sample from a patient suffering from, suspected to suffer from or being prone to suffer from pancreatic cancer, in particular metastatic pancreatic cancer; and

(b) determining the protein expression level of one or more of VEGFA, VEGFR2 and PLGF;

whereby an increased expression level of one or more of VEGFA, VEGFR2 and PLGF relative to control expression levels determined in patients suffering from pancreatic cancer, in particular metastatic pancreatic cancer, is indicative of a sensitivity of the patient to the

addition of bevacizumab to said chemotherapy regimen. The chemotherapy regimen may comprise gemcitabine-erlotinib therapy.

The present disclosure~~invention~~ provides an in vitro method for the identification of a patient that is responsive to or sensitive to the addition of bevacizumab treatment to a chemotherapy regimen, said method comprising determining the protein expression level of one or more of VEGFA, VEGFR2 and PLGF in a sample from a patient suffering from, suspected to suffer from or being prone to suffer from metastatic pancreatic cancer, whereby an increased combined expression increased level of VEGFA and VEGFR2 or VEGFA and PLGF or VEGFA, VEGFR2 and PLGF relative to a control combined expression level determined in patients suffering from metastatic pancreatic cancer is indicative of a sensitivity of the patient to the addition of bevacizumab to said chemotherapy regimen. The chemotherapy regimen may comprise gemcitabine-erlotinib therapy.

Accordingly, the present disclosure~~invention~~ solves the identified technical problem in that it was surprisingly shown that the blood plasma specific expression levels of one or more of VEGFA, VEGFR2 and PLGF in a given patient, relative to control levels determined in patients diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, in particular, metastatic pancreatic, correlate with treatment effect in those patients administered an angiogenesis inhibitor in combination with a chemotherapy regimen. Specifically, variations in the protein expression levels of VEGFA, VEGFR2 and/or PLGF were surprisingly identified as markers/predictors for the improved overall survival and/or progression-free survival of metastatic pancreatic cancer patients in response to the addition of bevacizumab (Avastin®) to the chemotherapy regimen of gemcitabine-erlotinib. Patients exhibiting a response or sensitivity to the addition of bevacizumab (Avastin®) to chemotherapy regimens were identified to have an increased protein expression level of one or more VEGFA, VEGFR2 and PLGF relative to control expression levels established in samples obtained from patients diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, in particular, metastatic pancreatic cancer. The terms "marker" and "predictor" can be used interchangeably and refer to the expression levels of one or more of VEGFA, VEGFR2 and PLGF as described herein. The invention also encompasses the use of the terms "marker" and "predictor" to refer to a combination of any two or more of the blood plasma expression levels of VEGFA, VEGFR2 and PLGF.