Reviewer’s report

Title: Truncated LEF-1 is one of the key regulators in the growth of colon carcinoma

Version: 3 Date: 14 November 2011

Reviewer: Andrew Quest

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Revision of resubmitted manuscript

The authors addressed many of my previous comments in a satisfactory fashion with the exception of those concerning Figures 2 and 6 (see below).

My previous comment to Figure 2 was: Cells are compared after analysis of the cell cycle by flow cytometry. Rather surprisingly, no increments in the sub G0/G1 population are detected for both the SW480-dL and HT29-dL cells. This would be expected based on the result shown in Figure 3 where an increase in Annexin-V positive cells is observed for both these cell lines. The authors need to provide an explanation for this discrepancy and preferably should include the percentage cells in sub G0/G1 in the analysis shown in Figure 2.

The authors responded that they had quantified the flow cytometry data and observed significant increases in G0/G1. However, my question related to the SUB G0/G1 population that would be expected since it is indicative of apoptosis. Accumulation in G0/G1 alone is more indicative of cell cycle arrest.

With respect to Figure 6, I commented that the authors should evaluate whether reduced tumor vascularization observed for cells expressing the LEF-1-dL variant is also significantly reduced in tumors of the same size.

The authors responded that in fact the tumors were of the same size and were analyzed 15 days after subcutaneous injection of cells. However, in Figure 6A the authors show and claim that tumors were of different sizes after 15 days. Incidentally, this statement also contrasts with data shown in panel 6C where tumors of appreciable volume were not really detectable until after 20 days.

The authors have changed the title. However, no evidence is provided indicating that LEF-1 variants are “key” regulators. Changes in many molecules will induce similar changes.

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

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'