Reviewer's report

Title: Long-term culture of cholangiocytes from liver fibro-granulomatous lesions

Version: 2 Date: 9 December 2005

Reviewer: STUART FORBES

Reviewer's report:

General
This is a well performed study looking at the generation of cells with a cholangiocyte phenotype. It is of interest to those studying biliary epithelial biology and may indicate a future technique of broad applicability.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
We should see a photomicrograph of the typical lesions that develop in the model at the timepoints mentioned.
We need to see controls for the immunofluorescent immunohistocharacterisation (ie no antibody negative control and a positive control)

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)
Im not sure why in the discussion the authors think that expression of CK 18 and 19 rules out an undifferentiated of oval cell phenotype.

Have monoclonal cell cultures been produced (from a single cell)?

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests