Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 2 Date: 20 January 2006

Reviewer: Eugenio Gaudio

Reviewer’s report:

General

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

1. The authors should improve the description of optical microscopic methods.

2. Did the Authors use a method to block unspecific binding of the antibody in the immunofluorescence stainings? and a method to permeabilize the cells (for protein expressed intracellularly)?

3. In the immunofluorescence methods, the authors should indicate the description of primary and secondary antibodies (species reactivity, sources and, if possible, the company that provided the primary antibody), the dilution used and the time of incubation with the secondary antibodies.

4. Figure 3A: the H&E staining should be changed with a better section (the nuclei are not well displayed) or/and with a section with a Masson’s trichrome stain.

5. In the discussion the authors do not explain why they have been not able to isolate cholangiocytes from dissociated chronic phase granulomas or dissociated liver fragments. This aspect should be better elucidated in the discussion.
6. In the discussion some sentences are not supported by references.

7. The cell line should be tested for epithelial markers (CK-19 at least) at least after 16 passages and at one year and eight months of culture

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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)
1. Legend figure 3, line13: microvilli instead of villi.

2. Legend figure 5, line 2: the label “B.” misses.

3. Figure 1. The chronic phase is described as 45 days after the infection instead of 90 days.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

**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