Reviewer's report

Title: Modulations of Cell Cycle Checkpoints in HCV Associated Disease

Version: 3 Date: 10 June 2009

Reviewer: Giuliano Ramadori

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The expression of p27 and p15 in the nuclei of the non-dividing cells may indicate increased DNA-synthesis only in cells which are metabolically more active (compensation in a continuously damaged liver?). This impression could be supported by the fact that the areas of the liver shown in the pictures do not contain much inflammatory cells in the vicinity of the positive hepatocytes.

The number of non-HCV-infected control livers is too low to allow to define statistically significant differences between the two groups (with different degrees of fibrosis).

I would suggest to take the manuscript as it is after the caveat mentioned above have been introduced into the discussion together with the fact that beta-actin gene-expression may increase with increasing grade of fibrosis and inflammatory activity.