Reviewer’s report

Title: The silence of MUC2 mRNA induced by promoter hypermethylation associated with HBV in Hepatocellular Carcinoma

Version: 3 Date: 17 August 2012

Reviewer: Norishige Yamada

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions:

Most of the authors are different from those in the previous manuscript (version 2). Moreover, the authors who contributed the majority of the cellular and molecular studies are totally different (“LR and GL” to “ZCH and XY”), despite reaching the same results as in the previous version. The authors should provide a valid reason for these changes. Otherwise, I have to wonder about the reliability of the data.

Minor Essential Revisions:
1. Background, line 4 of 4th paragraph: “50 flanking region” should be “5' flanking region”.
2. Discussion, line 7 of last paragraph: “MUC4” should be “MUC2”.

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.