Reviewer's report

**Title:** Oleanane triterpenoid CDDO-Me induces apoptosis in multidrug resistant osteosarcoma cells through inhibition of Stat3 pathway

**Version:** 3  **Date:** 17 March 2010

**Reviewer:** Cheryl A London

**Reviewer's report:**

The authors are commended for making substantial revisions to the manuscript in response to the concerns of all reviewers. There are only two minor comments.

**Minor Essential Revisions**

1. We have previously evaluated the U2OS line for IL-6R and have found very low expression by RT-PCR, while both gp130 and oncostatin M receptor are expressed highly, suggesting that IL-6 is unlikely to have much of an effect on these cells. Indeed, we have found that most of our OSA lines respond to Oncostatin M but not IL-6. While it is possible that different passages of this line express the IL-6R to varying degrees, it would be appropriate to actually demonstrate STAT3 phosphorylation following IL-6 stimulation.

2. While the authors have calculated the CI to demonstrate synergy, they have not provided the methods for this. This should be included in the manuscript.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I have no competing interests.