Reviewer's report

Title: Grp78 promotes the invasion of hepatocellular carcinoma

Version: 1 Date: 1 September 2009

Reviewer: Guo Fu

Reviewer's report:

In this study, Dr. Su showed that Grp78 promotes the invasion of hepatocellular carcinoma. The experiments were designed and performed fairly by using reciprocal approaches to either over-express Grp78 or knock it down. The data presented are interesting. I would recommend its publication on BMC cancer. However, I have several specific points in below and I'd like the authors to address them before acceptance.

1. In methods section, in Cell Culture subheading, the authors should list the researcher's name who provided the SMMC7721 cell line and put the affiliated institutes in brackets. The issue in Transfection subheading, please name who provided the pCAG-KDIA construct.

2. In Fig 2A, 4B, 4C, and 5B, if doable, the authors should normalize the expression level of targeted protein (e.g. Grp78) to control protein (e.g. Actin) and show a bar graph underneath. This can be easily done by scanning the film, calculating the bands density, and normalizing with control protein.

3. In Fig 2C, 2D, 3B, 3C, 4D, and 5D, wherever the authors claimed a significant difference, they should show the relative P value in both text and figures.

4. The rationale and interconnections were not explained clearly in Results section subheading Grp78 negatively regulates Rock activity. The author should make it clearer.

5. In the figure legends, when applicable, the authors should state how many experiments or repeats were done

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests