Reviewer's report

**Title:** Oxaliplatin treatment enhances the metastatic potential of residual cancer in a nude mouse model of human hepatocellular carcinoma and is attenuated by Songyou Yin

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 19 February 2010

**Reviewer:** Boheng Zhang

**Reviewer's report:**

**Major Compulsory Revisions**

1. page 11. The section of statistical analysis should be re-written. The description of statistical analyses is too simple, and not consistent with the methods used in data analyses. The version of SPSS software should be indicated.

2. The authors should clarify logically that enhanced metastatic potential of the surviving cancer cell after oxaliplatin pre-treat is the opposite effect of chemotherapy, or just is a result of screening (i.e. oxaliplatin kills low metastatic potential cancer cells, and leaves high metastatic potential ones.)

3. Page 12. ANOVA was not a good method to be used for comparison of migration and invasion assays in your study.

4. Page 12, figure 3B# “At 48 and 72 h after plating, both MHCC97L-Oxa and HepG2-Oxa cells exhibited reduced proliferation compared with corresponding parental cells(Figure 3B).” You need to state what statistical method used. Here, you may adjust the baseline levels of proliferation.

5. Page 13, Figure 4A, 4B. Please state clearly what statistical methods used for comparisons of necrosis and apoptosis.

6. Page 15. “Songyou Yin inhibited metastasis of oxaliplatin pre-treated tumors and increased survival”. You designed four groups in this section, but compared the different Songyou groups with control separately. It will generate alpha consumption.

**Discretionary Revisions**

7. Page 14, Figure 5. Conclusion comes without data support.

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

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**
I declare that I have no competing interests