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: 20 February 2010

Reviewer: JASON CHIA-HSIEN Chia-Hsien CHENG

Reviewer's report:

General comments:
This is a study investigating the molecular information on the chemotherapy-induced metastasis of hepatocellular carcinoma. The topic is important, but the analysis is mainly the association between the findings. There is not much data on the direct mechanism to prove the concept. The authors need to add more data on the mechanism before they can convince the readers.

Specific comments:
1. The rationale to choose oxaliplatin for the study needs to be explained. Even with the common of platinum in hepatocellular carcinoma, there is not much concern in the platinum related metastasis.
2. The EMT system needs to be used for proving the concept. The molecular ways to inhibit the pathway between E- and N-cadherin should be taken for the invasion or migration test. The mechanism would be more convincing in such a way.
3. The animal study is too simple to convince the readers. It would be easily biased to use simple statistics for the concept. More steps and tests need to be taken to compare the cell or molecular biology between tumors from animals with metastasis and no metastasis, especially those in experimental group but no metastasis.
4. The components, rather than the mixture of the herb, need to be tested for the specific effect on inhibiting the metastasis.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

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