Author's response to reviews

Title: Factor VII-targeted verteporfin photodynamic therapy for breast cancer in vitro and in vivo in mice

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BMC Cancer

Dear Dr. Norton, Dr. Patel, and Editor Neilan:

Attached please find our manuscript entitled “Factor VII-targeted verteporfin photodynamic therapy for breast cancer in vitro and in vivo in mice” by Hu et al that we submit for consideration of publication in BMC Cancer. We suggest two potential reviewers for your consideration below.

We have previously shown that Icon (a dimeric factor VII/human IgG1 Fc antibody-like immunoconjugate) immunotherapy by targeting tissue factor (TF), a receptor over-expressed by many cancer cells including breast cancer and specifically expressed on tumor angiogenic vascular endothelial cells but not on normal vascular endothelial cells, could eradicate primary and distant metastatic tumors in mouse models of primary and metastatic tumors without causing obvious toxicity (Hu et al. PNAS 1999; Hu & Garen. PNAS 2000; 2001; Tang et al. Cancer Gene Therapy 2007). In addition, the Icon was efficacious and safe for eradiation of choroidal neovascularization in mouse and pig models simulating the wet-form of macular degeneration (Bora, Hu et al. PNAS 2003; Tezel et al. Ocul Immunol Inflamm. 2007). This manuscript describes in details the development and test of another therapeutic approach by using factor VII (fVII) as a monomeric polypeptide for targeted verteporfin photodynamic therapy (PDT) for breast cancer, as a model example for targeted PDT for cancer by targeting...

Suggestions of potential reviewers

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We believe that the manuscript meets the high standards for publication in *BMC Cancer*. Part of the results described in the manuscript was presented as poster titled “Targeting Tissue Factor for Photodynamic Therapy of Breast Cancer” at the 2008 AACR Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA. However the manuscript as a complete research paper has not been previously published, nor under consideration for publication elsewhere. We have no financial conflict of interest related to the submission.
Sincerely yours,

Zhiwei Hu