Reviewer’s report

Title: MicroRNA-21 inhibitor sensitizes human glioblastoma cells U251 (PTEN-mutant) and LN229 (PTEN-wild type) to taxol

Version: 3 Date: 16 December 2009

Reviewer: Hideo Baba

Reviewer’s report:

Minor Essential Revisions

Substantial data indicate that miR-21 regulates multiple genes associated with cancer cell proliferation, apoptosis, and invasiveness in several solid cancers including GBM. MiR-21 can become a target to enhance the chemotherapeutic effect in cancer therapy.

In this study, Authors demonstrated that miR-21 blockage could increase the chemosensitivity to taxol. The miR-21 inhibitor might interrupt the activity of EGFR pathways. So, it is very interesting that a combination of the miR-21 inhibitor and taxol could be an effective therapeutic strategy for suppressing the growth of GBM.

Though the replies to the reviewer’s comments can be almost accepted, there are some problems to be solved as follows.

1) In figure 6B(right), the scale is wrong and must be corrected. The unit shifts in the figure though there are results of 48.7%#70.1% shown in the text.
2) In figure 5B, the number is not described and must be added.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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