Reviewer's report

**Title:** Survivin gene silencing sensitizes prostate cancer cells to selenium growth inhibition

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 20 November 2009

**Reviewer:** K.C. C Balaji

**Reviewer's report:**

Minor essential revisions:

This is a well written paper. The authors found surprisingly that MSA treatment induces apoptosis without affecting survivin expression in PC3-M cells and have exploited the finding to demonstrate that additional survival knock down in PC3-M cells sensitizes the cells to growth inhibitory effects of MSA.

Few concerns may be addressed

- Fig 5B, increased activation of caspase-3 in combined group is unconvincing although seems statistically significant. Authors may consider discussing alternate mechanisms

- Fig 6: While both selenium and sh-survivin significantly reduce tumor growth, the combined synergistic effect on growth inhibition is less convincing. It is unclear from the figure, whether the combined growth was significantly different compared to sh-survivin alone

Recent SELECT trial in prostate cancer prevention was not a positive study. Authors may consider discussing their data in context of recent results.

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

'I declare that I have no competing interests'