Reviewer's report

Title: Spermine oxidase (SMO) activity in breast tumor tissues and biochemical analysis of the anticancer spermine analogues BENSpm and CPENSpm

Version: 3 Date: 7 July 2010

Reviewer: Douglas Curran-Everett

Reviewer's report:

General Comments

I have some questions about specifics of the statistical analyses.

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. Statistical analysis with t test. The authors state that they used a t test to compare responses between the T and NT groups. It is not clear, however, if the equal- or unequal-variance version of the test was used. In Table 2, the SD of each response is quite different for the 2 groups. It would help to see a scatterplot of the responses in each of the 2 groups. The differences in SD suggest a log transformation may help. In addition, the authors can analyze the responses using a nonparametric test such as Wilcoxon rank sum.

Minor Essential Revisions

1. Statistical analysis. A statement of the statistical procedure used needs to be included in the Methods section where the T/NT comparisons are mentioned.

2. Results, p 7, line 1. Why is SE mentioned? SD is preferred if variability of the observations is of interest. Because SD is a single positive number, the +/- sign is not helpful (for example, p 9, patient demographics). Means and SD can be reported as 72.9 (SD 11.8) years.

3. P values. P values can be rounded to 2 decimal places if they are at least 0.01 and to 3 decimal places if they are less than 0.01 .

4. Table 2. Values can be reported as 159.1 (24.8) if it is mentioned that the number in parentheses is the SD.

5. Table 3. The SD is 5%.

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.
Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.