Reviewer's report

Title: Protection of p53 wild type cells from taxol by nutlin-3 in the combined lung cancer treatment

Version: 1 Date: 31 December 2009

Reviewer: Giorgio Zauli

Reviewer's report:

The study of Tokalov and Abolmaali is interesting as it shows a potential therapeutic role of Nutlin-3, a non-genotoxic activator of the p53 pathway in association with taxol in the combined lung cancer treatment. Therefore, the Authors propose a therapeutic strategy protecting normal cells from taxol while increasing apoptosis selectively in p53-deficient cells using nutlin-3.

Minor Essential Revisions:

1) there are some spelling errors throughout the text that need to be amended;

2) there are important References missing, such as the effect of Nutlin-3 on primary cells relevant for cancer progression, such as endothelial cells, osteoclasts and fibroblasts.

Please add the following references and a statement discussion your current findings with those of other Authors:

MDM2 antagonist Nutlin-3 suppresses the proliferation and differentiation of human pre-osteoclasts through a p53-dependent pathway.
Zauli G, Rimondi E, Corallini F, Fadda R, Capitani S, Secchiero P.

Antiangiogenic activity of the MDM2 antagonist nutlin-3.

Nutlin-3a activates p53 to both down-regulate inhibitor of growth 2 and up-regulate mir-34a, mir-34b, and mir-34c expression, and induce senescence.
Cancer Res. 2008 May 1;68(9):3193-203.

Induction of p53-dependent senescence by the MDM2 antagonist nutlin-3a in mouse cells of fibroblast origin.
Cancer Res. 2007 Aug 1;67(15):7350-7.

**Level of interest:** An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

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

**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