Reviewer's report

Title: Small lytic peptides escape the inhibitory effect of heparan sulfate on the surface of cancer cells

Version: 2 Date: 17 December 2010

Reviewer: Masaaki Iigo

Reviewer's report:

1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined? Yes.
2. Are the methods appropriate and well described? Yes.
3. Are the data sound? Yes.
4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition? Yes.
5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data? Yes.
6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated? Yes.
7. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished? Yes.
8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found? Yes.
9. Is the writing acceptable? Yes.

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

1) In Table 4, ratio (IC50) of LTX-315 is not "0" but "1.00".
2) In Figure 2, there is no asterisk. Please see figure legend.
3) In Figure 4, there is only *** ,but not **. However, explanation of ** (P<0.01) is in the figure legend.
4) I don't think that Figure 5 needs for explanation of this study . Because there is no data that 9-mer peptides bind to membrane and LfcinB does not.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Declaration of competing interests:

- Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this paper, either now or in the future? No.
- Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this paper, either now or in the future? No.
- Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript? Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript? No.

- Do you have any other financial competing interests? No.

- Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper? No.

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

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