Reviewer's report

Title: Smac Mimetic-Derived Augmentation of Chemotherapeutic Response in Experimental Pancreatic Cancer

Version: 4 Date: 3 December 2010

Reviewer: MASAAKI TAMURA

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Response to the major comment 1 was only verbally explained although the comment requests to repeat the study since the mouse number was too small as an in vivo study in general. However, the author’s explanation is rational and acceptable since this experiment suggests that only the combination treatment of JP and GEM shrunk tumor size. However, authors should be aware that the weakness of the small number is clearly evident in the difference between the treatment of Gem in this study (figure 5) and the survival study in the figure 6A; the treatment Gem alone in the study of figure 5 did not show statistical significance, but in the survival study Gem treatment extended the survival time approximately 10 days. Therefore, this issue may be appropriate to insert in the discussion.

Minor but essential comment 1: They have added loading controls in the figures 2B and 4. However, pictures of these loading controls (alpha tubulin) appear to have derived from different gel electrophoreses since band shapes of the PARPS and alpha tubulin are quite different. The principle of the loading controls must be obtained from the same gel electrophoresis sample by re-blotting. This is not only embarrassing for the authors but the journal as well. This experiment needs to be redone.

Minor comment 2: responded.

Minor comment 3: responded.

Level of interest: These findings are mainly confirmatory and are suggestive for a
practical clinical application of the Smac mimetic.

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.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**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.