Reviewer’s report

Title: The natural triterpene maslinic acid induces apoptosis in HT29 colon cancer cells by JNK-p53 dependent mechanism.

Version: 1 Date: 22 January 2010

Reviewer: Sung-Kwon Moon

Reviewer’s report:

This study provides original information of the anti-cancer ability of natural triterpene maslinic acid in colon cancer HT29 cells. However, the data presented in this study are looks quite interesting, there are, however, a number of critical points. Considering the required scientific quality, this question has to be answered before publication should be considered. Thus, I do not recommend to accept these data for publication in BMC Cancer.

1. The authors already published almost same story in Cancer letters (Reyes-Zurita FJ, Rufino-Palomares EE, Lupiáñez JA, Cascante M. Maslinic acid, a natural triterpene from Olea europaea L., induces apoptosis in HT29 human colon-cancer cells via the mitochondrial apoptotic pathway. Cancer Lett. 2009 Jan 8;273(1):44-54.). This manuscript is only additional study for that.

2. The authors mentioned JNK-p53 dependent mechanism of maslinic acid. However, the authors should study the direct relationship between JNK and p53 using siRNA or p53 knockout cells.

3. In the same line with number 2, the authors also should suggest the direct evidence between JNK and Bid.

Level of interest: An article of insufficient interest to warrant publication in a scientific/medical journal

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.