Reviewer's report

Title: SIP1 is Downregulated in Hepatocellular Carcinoma by Promoter Hypermethylation

Version: 3 Date: 16 March 2011

Reviewer: Janet JM Mertz

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Minor Essential Revisions:

1. It is nice to see the immunoblot that has been added to this manuscript (new Figure 2). However, this reviewer would like to see the whole gel, not just the region surrounding the band labeled SIP1, to see whether the rest of the gel is really devoid of other bands. Also, there is some concern regarding the position of the band labeled SIP1 relative to the size markers. SIP1 typically migrates at ~140-kDa while this band appears to be in a position of a somewhat larger protein. It would be nice to include a positive control on this gel such as extract from cells transfected with a SIP1 expression plasmid. Might the antibody be cross-reacting with ZEB1, a protein that migrates in SDS-PAGE as if it were ~ 200-kDa.

2. The text contains some misspellings and poorly worded phrases. The English could be improved somewhat by having the text edited by a native English speaker.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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.