Reviewer's report

Title: FAP-overexpressing fibroblasts produce an extracellular matrix that enhances invasive velocity and directionality of pancreatic cancer cells

Version: 1 Date: 8 February 2011

Reviewer: Annarosa Arcangeli

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The manuscript by H-O Lee describes the consequences of overexpressing FAB in fibroblasts on the organization of tumor stromal ECM as well as on the invasive capacities of pancreatic cancer cells. On the whole my opinion on the manuscript falls into the category “Discretionary Revisions”. Following are the answers to the specific points you listed in your email:

points 1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined?
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? This is the only weakness of the manuscript. In fact, the authors should take into account that the cellular components of pancreatic tumor stroma are represented not only by fibroblasts but also by pancreatic stellate cells (PSC). Hence at least the expression of FAP in PSC should be checked and discussed.
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 Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished?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