Author's response to reviews

Title: Generation of a selectively cytotoxic fusion protein against p53 mutated cancers

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Version: 3 Date: 27 May 2012

Author's response to reviews: see over
The editors

BMC Cancer

26\textsuperscript{th} May, 2012

Dr M. P. Deonarain BSc(Hons), PhD, ARCS

Dear Sir,

Please find attached our revised manuscript and we hope that we have now finally satisfied the reviewers. We appreciate such as thorough review and detailed analysis of the work, which in fact does help us. In response to the reviewers comments, we have made the following changes.

(a) Reviewer Saeid Ghavami did not request any further changes

(b) Reviewer Piotr Widlak asked for the following.

1. Clarification of Figure 3. We have included a chemotherapy control in the bar graph, amended the legend to explain that the reference level is untreated cells of that type, named the cells in place of A, B, C, etc and explained the difference/similarity between the two parental cell lines. We have clarified the statistical comparison by moving the groups being compared next to each other and amending the legend.

2. There seems to be a problem uploading Table 1 so this has been added to the end of the manuscript.

3. Using wild-type RKO in the tumour experiments is a useful suggestion but would take a lot of time to optimize that tumour model and do the treatments. We have shown their similarity in vitro (data not shown) and these cells have sufficiently demonstrated the point.

4. We have confirmed that this statement is our own speculation.

(discretionary)

5. Using Antp-p21 alone in Figure 5 a/b is also a useful suggestion but we are keen to see this work published and will include that experiment in the next report where we are looking more closely at the mechanism of action.

6. We have relabeled the panels as suggested.

7. We have removed this statement (about PBS) from the legend.

Once again many thanks and we look forward to your next communication and hopefully move on to publication.

Kind regards

Dr Mahendra Deonarain