Reviewers report

Title: Hypermethylation and Tumor Suppressive Role of Homeodomain Only Protein X Gene in Pancreatic Carcinogenesis

Version: 2 Date: 5 July 2012

Reviewer: Hong Lok Lung

Reviewers report:

Although the manuscript has been improved after the first revision, I still have one major concern.

Major Compulsory Revisions:

The two cell lines selected for the functional studies create a major problem. For MIA Paca2, HOPX is unlikely to be inactivated by methylation in this cell line according to the present data, and this is not concordant with the title. For PANC-1, I don’t see substantial HOPX protein expression in this cell line, although RNA is expressed in PANC-1. I suggest the authors should be very careful to deal with the assay results based on these two cell line. This study is about the tumor suppressive role of HOPX, the functional assays are critical for making any conclusion.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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' below.