Reviewer's report

Title: Dimethylaminoparthenolide and gemcitabine: a survival study using a genetically engineered mouse model of pancreatic cancer

Version: 1 Date: 24 October 2012

Reviewer: Pamela Crowell

Reviewer's report:

In this manuscript, the authors present important new findings on the combined effects of gemcitabine and dimethylaminoparthenolide (DMAPT) in a Kras/p53 mouse model of pancreatic cancer. The strengths of the manuscript include the selection of a highly relevant and widely used mouse model; the rational selection of DMAPT and gemcitabine based on their biological effects on NF-KB and the use of gemcitabine in the treatment of human pancreatic cancer; the measurable (though not universal) positive effects of the combination of DMAPT and gemcitabine vs. either agent alone; and the careful, scientifically sound presentation and interpretation of the data.

Neither major compulsory revisions nor minor essential revisions are necessary. The following discretionary revisions are recommended:

1. p. 5, second paragraph: improve the wording of the sentence "Recently using genetically engineered mouse models..."

2. p. 18, second paragraph, last sentence: expand upon the potential future directions in preclinical and/or clinical investigation of DMAPT and gemcitabine combination chemoprevention and/or chemotherapy.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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.