Reviewer's report

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

Version: 2 Date: 23 February 2013

Reviewer: Francisco X. Real

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript has not changed substantially. The concerns related to the study design (mix of preventive and therapeutic) are unchanged. The number of mice continues to be small in many of the experiments, not allowing to find statistically significant differences (if they were to be found), and the effects of the combination are minor in relationship to the effects of gemcitabine alone. These facts, together with the small sample size that does not allow to detect small differences between gemcitabine and the combination group, substantially reduce the potential interest of the ms.

In addition, I am surprised that the authors do not give more important (nor explain) the fact that the differences in survival between the gemcitabine and combination groups are essentially null whereas other parameters of tumor progression are indeed somewhat affected.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

No competing interests.