Reviewer's report

Title: Mononuclear cells support mammary tumor invasivity by co-secreting lineage-specific EGFR ligands and a STAT3 activator

Version: 1 Date: 19 January 2013

Reviewer: Hui-Wen Lo

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Major Compulsory Revisions
1. The authors should make distinction of M1- and M2-polarized TAMs that have contrasting effects on anti-tumor immunity.
2. Tumor secreted factors should be identified in each cell line used. It is expected that different cell lines secret different factors and consequently have differential priming capability towards monocytes and macrophages.
3. Table. MCF10-A is a benign cell line. The authors should provide explanation why and how the cells can prime PBMC cells to secret EREG and OSM.
4. In Fig. 2B and 2E western blots, total EGFR and total STAT3 levels should have been determined.
5. In Fig 3 migration assay, the identity of the receptors expressed in the tumor cells needed to be investigated.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.