Reviewer’s report

Title: Molecular Mechanisms of Action and Potential Biomarkers of Growth Inhibition of Dasatinib (BMS-354825) On Hepatocellular Carcinoma Cells

Version: 1 Date: 7 February 2013

Reviewer: Oliver Renner

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Report of Oliver Renner

In their work entitled "Molecular Mechanisms of Action and Potential Biomarkers of Growth Inhibition of Dasatinib (BMS-354825) On Hepatocellular Carcinoma Cells.", the authors analyze the mode of action on 9 different HCC cell lines.

They compare the effects measured by different assays with an analysis of major signalling pathways. After their study of the effects of different therapeutic compounds and their combinations (Chang et al., Anticancer Drugs, 2013, 24(3):251-9), this study tries to elucidate the mechanism if one of the used compounds, dasatinib.

The study appears to be well conducted; the data are reported according to the scientific standards. Especially in the light of the need for an improved therapy against HCC, the data presented here are of value for this research field.

Minor Essential Revisions:

- Figure 1: Although it is mentioned in the result section, I would recommend indicating in the figure or the legend the unit of the y-axis (µg).

- Figure 2 and 4: Besides the labelling of the y-axis, it is not clear how the values of the x-axis were calculated.

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.