Reviewer's report

Title: RKIP phosphorylation and STAT3 activation is inhibited by Oxaliplatin and Camptothecin and are associated with poor prognosis in Stage II colon cancer patients

Version: 2 Date: 20 August 2013

Reviewer: Viktor H Koelzer

Reviewer's report:

The authors have appropriately addressed all comments raised by the reviewer. I am confident that the manuscript has profited from the joint review process. Only some minor issues remain to be addressed.

Minor Essential Revisions:

Conclusion §1:
In summary, this study examines for the first time, the expression profile of RKIP, phospho-RKIP and STAT3 in Stage II colon cancer.

- Analysis of the expression profile of RKIP in stage II CRC is not performed by the current study. Please explain. Response: The expression profile of RKIP was performed and no statistically significant correlation was found with any of the clinicopathological features or patient follow. This is the reason the study focuses on phosphorylated RKIP.

- Please include this data in the results as it was performed as part of the study, or comment on why the data was excluded. A brief discussion on why the results on RKIP may be discrepant from the previous studies in the field would be interesting to the reader.

Discretionary Revisions:

Please correct the following minor points:

Methods; Patients and specimens:
- Please correct (graphic error, Line 4-5).

Results; § 8
- Please correct:
  Twenty-six percentage
- to-
  Twenty six percent

Results; § 9
- Please correct:
The role that nuclear-STAT3 levels play tumor grade was studied and a significantly greater percentage of nuclear-STAT3 positive tumors are high grade (20%) compared to nuclear STAT3 negative tumors (5%) (P=0.064) (Table 2 and Figure 5B).

The impact of nuclear-STAT3 levels on tumor grade was studied and a significantly greater percentage of nuclear-STAT3 positive tumors are high grade (20%) compared to nuclear STAT3 negative tumors (5%) (P=0.064) (Table 2 and Figure 5B).

Discussion; § 1:
The phosphorylation of pRKIP may lead to the activation of distinct pathways...

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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.