Reviewer's report

Title: Activation of AMP-activated protein kinase attenuates hepatocellular carcinoma cell adhesion stimulated by adipokine resistin

Version: 2
Date: 11 November 2013

Reviewer: Jyan-Gwo Su

Reviewer's report:

Authors reported that resistin increased the adhesion of SK-Hep1 cells to HUVECs which was potentially mediated by NF-κB, ICAM-1 and VCAM-1. The resistin induced adhesion was attenuated by AMPK. The strategies for this study are logical, but several points need to be improved for this manuscript.

Major Compulsory Revisions:
1. No treatment with AICAR alone as control in the experiments for Figure 6. The decrease of NF-κB activity may be due to the toxicity of AICAR. Authors need to explain this concern.

2. The source of resistin should be described.

Minor Essential Revisions:
3. What is the control of siRNA? What are the sequences of ICAM-1, VCAM-1, and control of siRNA?

4. What is the substrate for the color measured in the ELISA?

In the method section for ELISA, “ICAM-1 and VCAM-1 expression on the cancer cell surface was measured by cell surface ELISA as previously described.” The reference for “previously described” is required.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest 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'