Reviewer’s report

Title: Ceramide Targets XIAP and cIAP1 to Sensitize Metastatic Colon and Breast Cancer Cells to Apoptosis Induction and Metastasis Suppression

Version: 1 Date: 28 October 2013

Reviewer: Alessia Lopergolo

Reviewer’s report:

Thank you for letting me to review your article that might be interesting however some points could be addressed.

Minor Essential Revision

PAG.2 and PAG.3 "Results", "a" instead of "A" after comma and "subtoxic" instead of "Subtoxic" after comma

PAG.10 "Ceramide analog effectively sensitizes..."
1) Would be better substitute in the text LCLB13 instead of only B13, considering that in in figure legend 1 and in figure 1 it is described as LCLB13.
2) The authors declared that LCL85 appears more potent as a cytotoxic agents as compared to LCLB13 but it doesn't seem. In my opinion would be better change the sentence.
3) Why in absence of LCL85 do you use just two doses of FasL? And why in the others experiments you decided to use 250mg/ml of FasL?
4) PAG.11, "a" instead of "A" after comma

The authors wrote that LCL85 is effective in sensitizing MDA-MB-231 cells to FasL-induced apoptosis at a dose of 25 uM and are resistant to FasL-induced apoptosis showing the results in Fig.2A and 2B but is not right, should be Fig.3A and 3B

PAG.12 "LCL85 increases cellular C16..."

Where are the results obtained treating the LS411N cells with a sublethal dose of LCL85??

PAG.15 "LCL85 also targets Bcl-xL"

The authors wrote that Bcl-xL protein level is dramatically decreased by LCL85, is not so dramatically decreased in MDA-MB-231

PAG.15 "Ceramide analog and Smac mimetic..."

BV6 instead of BV8

Other comments:

Try to level every sentence of the Figure Legend, some are in BOLD some not as the Fig 1A
Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests