Reviewer's report

Title: The Rho-kinase inhibitor HA-1077 suppresses proliferation/migration and induces apoptosis of urothelial cancer cells

Version: 2 Date: 23 February 2014

Reviewer: Bharat Joshi

Reviewer's report:

I have following two major questions, which have not been addressed yet in the revised version of the manuscript.

1. Effectiveness of HA-1077 is tested in vitro in two bladder cell lines in terms of cell growth inhibition and cell migration. The drug also induces apoptosis in treated cells at different concentrations. The authors should test the effectiveness of HA-1077 and excipient control in a clonogenic assay developed with either UM-UC-3 or 5637 tumor cell line to support their previous results. Both tumor cell lines are known to form colonies in a clonogenic assay in vitro.

2. In Results section, the authors have shown IHC data for RhoA, ROCK-I and ROCK-II protein levels after HA-1077 treatment to the tumor cells to demonstrate the extent of immunostaining. But, the information for % positive score in immunostained tumor cells has not been provided yet. It is equally important to include this score with statistical analyses. The manuscript should be revised in light of these new data.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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'