Reviewer's report

Title: Down-regulation of the expression of CCAAT/enhancer binding protein alpha gene in cervical squamous cell carcinoma

Version: 3  Date: 5 March 2014

Reviewer: Hua Tang

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CCAAT/enhancer binding proteins (C/EBPs) are a family of transcription factors that regulate cellular differentiation and proliferation in a variety of tissues, and its expression are regulated by different factors, such as transcription factors, methylation and miRNAs in variety of cancers. In this study, Pan et al. reported that C/EBP# is down-regulated in cervical cancer cells and methylation of C/EBP# promoter region may be involved in this process. The concerns:
1. The functional study of C/EBPs in cervical cancer cells should be performed in two cervical cancer cell lines.
2. It should use 5-Aza-CdR to treat cervical cancer cell lines in vitro to confirm whether 5-Aza-CdR affects the methylation of C/EBP# promoter region and C/EBP# expression.
3. Minors: usually, using OD570 for MTT; English may need to be improved.

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

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.