Reviewer's report

**Title:** FTY720 Inhibits Proliferation and Epithelial-Mesenchymal Transition (EMT) in Cholangiocarcinoma through Inactivation of STAT3 Signaling

**Version:** 2  
**Date:** 11 August 2014

**Reviewer:** Hong Wang

**Reviewer's report:**

This manuscript describes the evaluation of FTY720, an immunosuppressant derived from ISP-1, as a new anticancer reagent for the treatment of human cholangiocarcinoma (CC). FTY720 displayed moderate inhibitory activities at IC50 of 9.81, 11.66 and 8.84 µmol/L for QBC939, TFK-1 and HuCCT1 cells, respectively. Their study also revealed a possible mechanism for the inhibitory activity of FTY720, that FTY720 mainly targets the IL-6/STAT3 cellular pathway and inhibits proliferation and EMT of CC, subsequently inducing G1 phase arrest and apoptosis.

Overall, the study described in this manuscript is well thought and well organized. The identification of FTY720 as a new type of inhibitor targeting STAT3 for the treatment of cholangiocarcinoma is novel and is valuable to the field. The reviewer thus recommends publication of this manuscript in BMC Cancer, providing minor revisions listed below:

- Page 3, line 9, change “But” to “However,”.
- Page 8, line 28, delete “a”; line 29, change “And” to “In addition”.
- Page 10, line 10, change “group” to “groups”; line 11, add “were” after “which”.
- Page 11, line 1, change “and halting” to “to halt”.
- Page 12, line 3, “p-STST3” should be “p-STAT3”.

**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.