Reviewer's report

Title: Maspin overexpression induces tumor cell apoptosis through the modulation of Bcl2 family proteins

Version: 1 Date: 10 January 2005

Reviewer: Wenlong Bai

Reviewer's report:

General
In this manuscript, Zhang et al showed that the stable expression of Maspin in breast cancer cells increased the cell’s sensitivity to staurosporine-induced apoptosis. The effect is not due to the action of extracellular maspin but correlated with increased expression of Bax and decreased expression of bcl-2. The manuscript further showed the effect on bcl-2 members is due to protein stability. These are important conclusions that may explain why maspin suppresses breast tumor progression. The conclusion is generally in agreement with a recent report by Liu et al (Cancer Res. 2004, 1;64(5):1703-11.). The data that the action is not through external maspin and that the effect on the expression of Bcl-2 members is protein stability is novel.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
None

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
None

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)
None

What next?: Accept without revision

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

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