Reviewer's report

Title: Suppression of Mcl-1 via RNA interference sensitizes human hepatocellular carcinoma cells towards apoptosis induction

Version: 1 Date: 12 August 2006
Reviewer: Shiraki Katsuya

Reviewer's report:

General

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

The manuscript by Schulze-Bergkamen H et al., is an interesting report concerning the importance of Mcl-1 in the resistance of apoptosis in HCCs. They emphasize the importance of suppressing the Mcl-1 in treatment of HCCs. These findings will give us the important evidence concerning the biological effect of Mcl-1. The methods, results are almost sound. However, there are several points that the authors should address.

Specific comments

1. Authors used mainly Huh7 cells. Please clarify the reason and show the main date in other HCC cells in order to enhance the evidence.
2. Please reexamine the statistical difference in Fig 2, 3, 5 etc. No marked data may be statistically different, since error bars are too small.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No