Reviewer's report

Title: The monoclonal antibody SM5-1 recognizes a fibronectin variant which is widely expressed in melanoma

Version: 1 Date: 8 September 2005

Reviewer: Masahide Kuroki

Reviewer's report:

General:
In this report the authors characterized the antigen recognized by mAb SM5-1, which had been generated by themselves. The work is well done and the antigen, a melanoma associated fibronectin variant, seems to play an important role in melanoma progression. However, there are a few points that the authors should define or revise.

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

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct):
1. The authors should describe how they used SOLR(TM) cells for "Antibody Screening" on page 6 to 7.
2. The result of "FACS analyses of melanoma cell lines with mAb SM5-1 and fibronectin antibodies" on page 13 is unnecessary because it is already summarized on pp. 10-11.
3. The figure number cited on page 17 (line 7 from bottom) should be specified.
4. "Methods" on pp. 4-10 should be shortened by citing their own papers.
5. "Discussion" on pp. 14-19 might be also condensed.

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

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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

Statistical review: No

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