Reviewer's report

Title: Overexpression of Ribosomal Protein L15 is Associated With Cell Proliferation in Gastric Cancer.

Version: 1 Date: 21 February 2006

Reviewer: MM Gottesman

Reviewer's report:

General
Recently, more than 80 ribosomal protein genes have been identified. However, the functions of these proteins are still unexplored. The authors describe in this manuscript that ribosomal protein L15 is overexpressed in gastric carcinoma and related gastric cancer cell lines, and involved in regulation of cell growth in vivo and in vitro. The data presented here are interesting, and provide some evidence for possible roles of the gene in proliferation of gastric cancer.

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

Specific comments
1 Since this work was based on the previous microassay study, which is not published, the authors should include the data in this paper not only to make a clearer story, but also to avoid a conflict situation that may occur.
2 It is unclear how many bands were seen in the immuno-blots using a polyclonal antibody in this work! If there is more than one band after immuno-reaction in the blots, then how do they distinguish specific and non-specific staining in tissue sections? This should be verified.
3 There are numerous genes overexpressed in human gastric carcinomas. Therefore, RPL15 could not be a potential marker for diagnosis of the cancer (p.14) if it can not be identified as a unique or specific gene to other cancers. Rather, it could be a potential therapeutic target as siRNA could suppress the growth of tumors in vivo as described in this work.

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

4 P.5, RPL15 antibody was raised by BBC, China (line 8), then why is listed as from Santa Cruz (line 14)?
5 Several typo or downloading errors: p. 7, 1x10^3 should be 1x10^3, and p.8. p.9, etc.
6 In the figure legend: Fig.1, ga1stric should be gastric.
Fig. 2, why RhoA? It should be RPL15.
Fig. 4, the "left panel" should be right panel for the histogram.
Fig. 5, add markers on the tumors at the left panel.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions
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:

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