Author's response to reviews

Title: Control of the growth of human breast cancer cells in culture by manipulation of arachidonate metabolism

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Reviewer's 1 report:

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
The authors used a general measure of inhibition of lipoxygenase activity and then imply that this is due to inhibition of 5-lipoxygenase. They should explain why they didn't use an assay that specifically measured inhibition of 5-LOX or which measured the enzymatic product of 5-LOX, namely 5-HETE.

Response: The assay was used to measure the activity of lipoxygenase in the presence of various 5-LO inhibitors which showed inhibition of the activity that correspond to the growth pattern observed in the breast cancer cells. We agree that measuring 5-HETE levels would be ideal, however for those measurements you need a HPLC set up that we do not have currently in our laboratory. To set up this HPLC system will take funding which we do not have. We carried out analyses that we could do in our laboratory that would provide as much pertinent information as we could generate.

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
While at first the revised manuscript is better ...in that it is more focused I stopped my review when it became apparent that many of the figures had two separate figure numbers on them. Some of them (Figure numbers) are in black at the top of the figure but many also have different figure numbers on the bottom in red.

Response: This is due to the fact that the electronic system at the journal creates a new name to each of the file. For example; we have figure 1a, 1b, 1c, and 1d and the electronic system names these files as 1,2,3 and 4. Since I cannot see the reformatted figures, I think that the number in black on top is the correct one. Figure 3 should be figure 3 and not figure 6.

You mispell "curcumin". It does not have an "e" on the end of the word. [Figure 3 which is also labelled as Figure 6]

Response: This has been corrected.

Reviewer's 2 report:
There are still information missing on the statistical analysis, i.e. which tests are used for within- and between comparisons.

Response: Added Required information on statistical analysis.