Reviewer's report

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

Version: 4 Date: 24 April 2007

Reviewer: Robert Newman

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)

This reviewer would very much appreciate the authors paying close attention to and correcting the following problem. No where that I can find are data pertaining to Sphingosine or chelerythrine chloride either discussed or even mentioned in the results or discussion. In fact, they aren't even referred to in either the figure legends for Figures 6 or 7. Please do not put data into a manuscript that you don't even mention. You also mention that curcumin was very toxic to hematopoietic cells yet no data are presented to validate this. There are no curcumin data in Figure 7.

While the authors indicate they have performed statistical evaluation of their data...there are no such comparisons indicated in the manuscript.

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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. Page 5. Line 4. Remove "what is the state in the US) and replace with appropriate information.

2. Page 5 (and elsewhere)..."Each treatment was carried out in triplicates" ...should read "Each experiment was carried out in triplicate." Depelte the use of plural "triplicates".

Page 7. Line 4. Use the correct superscript indicating tritium.

Page 9. 3rd paragraph. ". . . and weakly inhibit the CO pathway." Did you really mean the "CO" pathway? Or did you mean to write "COX"?

Page 11. Legend to Figure 4. You mention (A) but do not mention or indicate "(B)"

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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: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.