Reviewer's report

Title: A stable explant culture of HER2/neu invasive carcinoma supported by alpha-SMA expressing stromal cells to evaluate therapeutic agents

Version: 2 Date: 16 November 2007

Reviewer: Ewa Gregoraszczuk

Reviewer's report:

General
With great pleasure I read this manuscript. Taking under attention both style, as well as content I suggest publish this paper without corrections.

It is valuable demonstration how important is co-culture model for both physiological and pathological research Taking under attention my long (almost 30 years) experienced with in vitro study of different types of cells I dare say that in vitro study with one type of cells have no physiological or applicatory shift. We should be remember about paracrine regulation neighboring cells and about "long-lasting " memory of cells already after isolating from organ or tissue. Obviously long-term memory depend on length life in vivo.

I would like to believe that in future the authors will attempt on giving the an examination and characterize such model using human tumor tissue.

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

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

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept without revision

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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'