Reviewer's report

Title: Effects of small interfering RNA targeting thymidylate synthase on survival of ACC3 cells from salivary adenoid cystic carcinoma

Version: 4 Date: 6 August 2008

Reviewer: Shu-Chun Lin

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In this revised manuscript the major comments including the lack of TS protein knockdown evidence and the lack of p53 up-regulation evidence being raised in the original review have been addressed in additional experiments. The minor statistical problems have also been improved.

Another major concern being raised was that all experiments in this study were conducted in a single cell line, which may hinder a clear molecular dissection. Authors have explained their difficulties in using other ACC cell lines to confirm the molecular alterations underlying the phenotypic changes. Since TS is also overexpressed in HNSCC, to validate the efficacy of TS siRNA in inhibiting the xenographic growth of ACC and other malignancies such as HNSCC, imposition of preclinical trails on more cell lines exhibiting high TS expression is suggested.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.