Reviewer’s report

Title: The NF-kappa B inhibitor celastrol could enhance the anti-cancer effect of Gambogic acid on oral squamous cell carcinoma

Version: 3 Date: 27 July 2009

Reviewer: Richard Yaacov Lawrence

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Major Compulsory Revisions
the science is much improved.
term "inhibition rate" in figure 4 is not clear
however in figure 5b, frames c and e seem very similar, ie in this experiment GA does not induce nuclear translocation of p65. please explain
the english remains extremely poor. Professional editing is required. There are innumerable problems and mistakes, I list two examples.

"In spite of this, treatment with current chemotherapeutic drugs does not always induce a positive response. To overcome such a severe problem, multiple chemotherapeutic agents with different modes of action, used either alone or in combination, have been suggested[2]."
could be rephrased "current chemotherapeutic agents have limited efficacy in OSCC"

"GA, a novel compound isolated from Gamboges, has recently gained more and more attention as a major component of gamboges," needs to be rephrased. the authors could also provide some background as to what "Gamboges" are - I presume a plant, but further explanation would be helpful.

the statement "Chemotherapy (pre- or post-surgery) appears to be beneficial for local control and survival improvement." is, as far as I am aware, wrong. The authors acknowledge this in their response to comments, but have not corrected the manuscript.

Stats: I would appreciate statistical input on the factorial ANOVA

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited
Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests