Reviewer's report

**Title:** High class I HDAC activity and expression are associated with RelA/p65 activation in pancreatic cancer in vitro and in vivo.

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 31 March 2009

**Reviewer:** Chris K.C. Wong

**Reviewer's report:**

1, Major Revisions:

a) In Figure 1, the evidence for the correlated staining of HDACs and RelA was not convincing. In the present format, the staining is not good and so the evidence is very fragmented. The authors should provide double staining to indicate their coexistence in the same cell.

b) For figure 2E, would the treatment of the cells with VPA or SAHA cause cell death? If it is the case, the decrease of p65 activity may due to the "side effect".

c) In figure 2F, the authors should show the Western blot data of IkB and the acetylated NFkB.

2) Minor Revisions

d) The authors illustrated that there was a postive correlation between HDAC and p65 stainings; but what are the underlying regulatory mechanism in linking up these two activity? Other studies reported that HDACi treatment increases the translocation and the activity of p65, by the process of acetylation. Would there be any conflicts between these observations?

e) The conclusion (page 14, line 8-9), the statement is in conflict with what the authors claimed in the abstract.

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**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