Reviewer's report

Title: Coherent Anti-Stokes Raman Scattering Imaging of Lipid in Cancer Metastasis

Version: 2 Date: 1 December 2008

Reviewer: Christian Brackmann

Reviewer's report:

Manuscript: Coherent Anti-Stokes Raman Scattering Imaging of Lipid in Cancer Metastasis Authors: Thuc T. Le, Terry B. Huff, Ji-Xin Cheng

Reviewer's report
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- Discretionary Revisions

1. In the combined CARS and TPEF microscopy measurements on M109 cells the CARS signal and the red fluorescence are emitted at wavelengths relatively close to each other and detected using identical bandpass filters. Temporally unsynchronized laser beams were used to avoid interference from CARS on the TPEF measurement. However, the TPEF process also occurs with synchronized beams and may therefore possibly interfere with the CARS measurement. Could the author comment on how this was handled?

What next?
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Based on your assessment of the validity of the manuscript, what do you advise should be the next step?
- Accept after discretionary revisions (which the authors can choose to ignore)

Level of interest
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- An article of importance in its field

The manuscript presents investigations on the role of lipids in cancer metastasis. The drawn conclusions from studies carried out on M109 cells are founded on observations made on experimental data of good quality.

The authors also report on observations similar to those made on the M109 cells for other types of cancer cells. To this reviewer the manuscript therefore seems to be an article of importance in its field.

Quality of written English
- Needs some language corrections before being published. Some small errors of character typing mistake were found. For example, would not “Lipids” instead of “Lipid” be more suitable in the title?

Declaration of competing interests

I declare that I have no competing interests.