Reviewer's report

Title: Pirfenidone inhibits TGF-beta1-induced over-expression of collagen type I and heat shock protein 47 in A549 cells

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Reviewer: Manabu Fujimoto

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In this manuscript, the authors demonstrated that TGF-β1 stimulated collagen type I and HSP47 mRNA and protein expression in A549 cells, and that pirfenidone significantly inhibited this process as well as over-expression of the fibroblast phenotypic marker fibronectin in A549 cells induced by TGF-β1. The authors concluded that the anti-fibrotic effects of pirfenidone might be mediated not only through the direct inhibition of collagen type I expression but also through the inhibition of HSP47 expression in alveolar epithelial cells in lung fibrosis. It appears that the methods are clear and solid and that the conclusions are reasonable.