Reviewer's report

Title: TRAIL Death Receptor-4, Decoy Receptor-1 and Decoy Receptor-2 expression on CD8+ T cells correlate with the disease severity in patients with rheumatoid arthritis

Version: 3 Date: 22 June 2010

Reviewer: Francis Chan

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The most crucial issue is regarding the FACS data presented in Figs. 2 and 3. In my original critique, I brought up the issue of why the increase in TRAIL receptor expression was only observed in the CD8+ cells (Fig. 3), but not in the CD4- cells (Fig. 2, these cells should be CD8+ for the most part). If you examine the data in Fig. 2A and 3A, the RA patients were all elevated compared to normal control. This raises the question of why the original Fig. 2B did not show any increases in TRAIL receptor expression in the CD4- population. Why would the FACS results not the authors show not matched that of the graph?

In response to my comment, the authors now show results from a different patient in Fig. 2B. Although the TRAIL receptor positive cells can be detected clearly in the new figure, the original FACS results still bother me since the authors did not offer any explanation on why the first set of results were negative. Were the FACS staining results in Fig. 2B and Fig. 3B from the same donors? If they are from the same donor, it should at least be internally consistent. In addition, the authors still have not shown the isotype staining controls despite claiming that they were done.