Reviewer's report

Title: Establishment of a murine epidermal cell line suitable for in vitro and in vivo skin modelling

Version: 5 Date: 15 March 2011

Reviewer: Julia Reichelt

Reviewer's report:

The authors addressed all critical points.

With respect to the tumorigenic assay, the now included references make it much easier for a reader from a non-cancer research background to understand and assess the appropriate use of the methods used by the authors. The confidential figures are impressive and clearly show the difference between the COCA keratinocyte line and a transformed line.

The revised Figure 1 includes the missing statistical analysis. The only missing information is the statistical approach used, e.g. Student's t-test.

Although now addressed in the text, the in vitro 3D model shown in Fig. 2 remains weak due to mis-expression of differentiation markers. However, the revised figure 3, showing the in vivo grafting assay, now shows the full potential of the COCA cell line.

The analysis of grafts after 3-4 weeks instead of 7-9 weeks as in the cited publication has been explained by the authors and is fully accepted.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests