Reviewer's report

**Title:** Down-regulation of estrogen receptor-alpha and RET are associated with Withaferin A-induced apoptosis in MCF-7 breast cancer cells

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 4 July 2011

**Reviewer:** Wen-Hsiung H Chan

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Minor points:

1. The dosage of WA used in this study was extremely high, which rendered the findings less significant. Please discuss the using dosage of WA in the discussion section.

2. The figure 4 showed the cytotoxicity and cell death measured using Annexin-V/PI staining by flowcytometry. What percentage of the dead cells were apoptotic versus necrotic or autophagy should be discussed?

3. The apoptotic and anti-cancer properties of WA were only investigated and demonstrated by immunoblotting (Figure 5). The precise regulatory mechanisms should further study by RNAi or specific inhibitors pre-treatment to elucidate the detail transduction cascades.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**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.