Reviewer's report

Title: Synergistic anti-proliferative effects of gambogic acid with docetaxel in gastrointestinal cancer cell lines

Version: 2 Date: 20 December 2011

Reviewer: Nik Soriani Yaacob

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Figure 4 (Author response no. 8)
For figure improvement, the cell percentages may be stated in the individual quadrants themselves rather than in separate boxes

Section 3.4 and Discussion (Author response no. 9, 10 and 15)
The explanation given is not sufficient to address the objective stated by the author

Discussion (Author response no. 13)
The two papers cited have reported on the cell death mechanism of GA in the same cell line (BGC 823) as the one studied by the author. It is suggested that the author elaborate on these previous findings to lend support to author’s discussion

Discussion (Author response no. 14)
Based on the results of Figure 1B, it is inappropriate to state that MKN-28 was insensitive to Doc application mono-chemotherapy since growth inhibition could be observed with 5 and 10 microM Doc, although a higher IC50 value was obtained compared to other cell lines

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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