Reviewer's report

Title: MiR-181a contributes to bufalin-induced apoptosis in prostate cancer cell PC-3

Version: 1 Date: 1 August 2013

Reviewer: Edward Ratovitski

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. Please use the help of the professional English speaking science writer. There is too many parts of the results section, that needed to be re-written in the clear manner indicating the experiment design and data obtained with sufficient details in the text and Legends.

2. Please avoid the conversational style, such as "obvious" instead of pointing out the degree of the bufalin effect on the miR-181a expression. Again not "given" but "Since" or "Because". Also, not "as showed", but "as shown". p.9.

3. Please provide quantitative data about the effect (e.g. fold change, etc.).

4. Please describe in more details the obtained results, not just "confirmed by"

5. Please described in more details the statistical data for Figure legends, such as "p" is such and such compare sample "A" to "B", how many samples (n=xx).

6. What is MiR-NC? Is it the scrambled one? Where is it obtained from?

7. Please indicate the molecular sizes of proteins in the immunoblot. Figure 3 and 4.

8. Please indicate the p values in Figure 4

9. How much microRNA inhibitor was added ? p. 5

10. Please state how many cells were used for transfection and other treatment. throughout the whole manuscript

Minor essential revisions:

1. It seems that in conclusions' section (Abstract, p. 2) line has a different font/size/ please correct.

2. Please separate the words after comma in the last sentence on p. 3.

3. Please avoid statements, like "so on" on p.4, end of the paragraph 2.

4. Please replace Here, we reported" with "Here, we report". p. 5
5. Page 5. Methods. Should state "Cells were treated with the indicated concentrations of bufalin for 24 hours"

6. When PBS designation used for the first time in the manuscript, please give a full name. p. 6

7. Please specify details about Flowjo software

8. Student is a name. p.14

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

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

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

No competing interests to declare