Reviewer's report

Title: Induction of Apoptosis in Cancer Cell Lines by Deep-Sea Brine Pool Bacteria from the Red Sea

Version: 1 Date: 24 October 2013

Reviewer: Ira Bhatnagar

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. The title of the article should include the word EXTRACTS as the study is extract based
2. The reason behind the choice of cell lines used should be clearly explained
3. The authors did not seem to have checked the Bax-Bcl2, apaf-1 or caspase 8 and 9 expressions, mandatory to distinguish the intrinsic or extrinsic apoptotic pathway. Either additional expression profiling needs to be done or a proper explanation regarding the non availability of the data should be provided, without fail.

Minor essential Revisions

1. The western blots need to be repeated as the tubulin internal standard itself does not show clear bands.

Discretionary Revisions

1. An additional microscopy investigation to access cell death would be an asset to the quality of the paper.
2. All three cell lines used by the authors are carcinoma cell lines, it would be interesting to know the effects of these effects on sarcomas as well.

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'