Reviewer's report

**Title:** Concomitant heterochromatinisation and down-regulation of gene expression unveils epigenetic silencing of RELB in an aggressive subset of chronic lymphocytic leukemia in males

**Version:** 5  **Date:** 20 July 2010

**Reviewer:** Michael Chan

**Reviewer's report:**

**Major Compulsory Revisions**

The authors argue that HDAC inhibitor Trichostatin A is too toxic to primary CLL cells and therefore the additional experiment is unrealistic to perform. However, Garofalo et al Int J Cancer 2007 120:1215-22 (Selective inhibition of PED....) has successfully demonstrated the use of two common HDAC inhibitors, VPA (1mM) and TSA(100ng/ml) to resensitize primary CLL cells to TRAIL-induced cell death. Therefore this experiment should be do-able and is important in demonstrating the roles of histone deacetylation on the down-regulation of RELB.

**Level of interest:** An article of outstanding merit and interest 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