Reviewer's report

Title: Interaction of a traditional Chinese Medicine (PHY906) and CPT-11 on the inflammatory process in the tumor microenvironment

Version: 2 Date: 15 January 2011

Reviewer: Yang Xiang

Reviewer's report:

This is an article important in its field. It gives detailed scientific evidences for a recently published article: Ewen Callaway, "How an 1,800-year-old herbal mix heals the gut", 19 August 2010, Nature News, doi:10.1038/news.2010.417. The authors have done comprehensive experiments and statistical analysis to support their results, including pathway analysis, clustering on differentially expressed genes, etc. The article is good to publish. As the experimental results are the primary contributions of this paper, please make sure the essential experimental results are repeatable.

Minor Essential Revisions:
1. It is better to cite the article "How an 1,800-year-old herbal mix heals the gut" in the introduction.
2. On page 5, last line of the first paragraph. "Nevada Cancer Institute" is repeated. Please delete one.

Discretionary Revisions:
There are some ways to improve the paper if authors would like to. For example, to create a gene correlation network for each microarray data, and study their difference/similarity using network mining algorithms/ tools.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.