Reviewer's report

Title: Anvirzel™ in combination with cisplatin in breast, colon, lung, prostate, melanoma and pancreatic cancer cell lines.

Version: 1 Date: 15 December 2012

Reviewer: Cara Williams

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions
The data provided in the results section should be re-worked and presented in a more standard pharmacological manner to interpret the results more clearly.
In the results section the authors refer to the different concentrations of the 2 drugs as densities - please correct this to concentrations.
The authors should provide concentration response curves for both Anvirzel and cisplatin in each cell line and then show with the Cisplatin concentration response curve when one titrates in the Anvirzel at a single concentration that there is a leftward shift of the curve. This would illustrate very nicely that the effect is real and would be much more impactful.
A lot of the data presented seems to be pre-work prior to deciding upon which assay to use; this could all be moved into supplemental section as it does not add value to the paper. The MTT assay looks quite robust from the data presented and the paper could be re-worked around that assay. The authors should concentrate on 1 assay for the actual data as the main message is to demonstrate synergy and improved potency of Cisplatin at lower doses.
The discussion needs work - it does not provide any information on how these concentrations relate to the clinical dose. Details of the clinical in vivo concentrations and how that relates to IC50 values in these assays is needed to put this data in context.

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

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
I am an employee of Pfizer and receive a salary from Pfizer. I also hold stock in Pfizer.