Reviewer’s report

Title: IL-6, through p-STAT3 rather than p-STAT1, activates hepatocarcinogenesis and affects survival of hepatocellular carcinoma patients

Version: 3 Date: 26 August 2014

Reviewer: Suguru Yamada

Reviewer’s report:

1. Through the manuscript, the authors described all of the results including the detailed statistical values. Therefore, it is a little bit difficult to understand the results. Perhaps, it is recommended that the important and significant values should be chosen in the manuscript.

2. It is easy to understand the correlation among IL-6, IL-27 and TNF-# as inflammatory cytokine, but VEGF should be another factor in carcinogenesis. The detailed description regarding the reason why the authors chosen this VEGF in this study.

3. In page 8, line 48, “anti- anti-HCV” is incorrect.

4. As for the immunostain scoring, please add the citation the author referred in this study.

5. It is very difficult to understand why the authors used “6-month mortality” for analysis. 6-month as a term is too short in regard to the clinics and survival, the authors should perform another analysis for the survival.

6. Figure 5 should be removed.

Minor Essential Revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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:

I have nothing to declare in this paper.