Reviewer’s report

Title: BAFF promoted proliferation of human mesangial cells through interaction with BAFF-R

Version: 2 Date: 2 January 2015

Reviewer: Kangsheng Li

Reviewer’s report:

The authors present evidence that BAFF could stimulate the proliferation of the mesangial cells through binding the BAFF-R. This is an in vitro experiment. The experiments appear to be well-conducted, the data analyzed properly and the writing is clear. I recommend publication. I have only some minor requests for amendments as indicated below.

1. P211 The human mesangial cells responded to BAFF treatment significantly only at concentration of 20 ng/ml. Could the author explain the possible reason why higher concentration of BAFF could not stimulate the proliferation of mesangial cells, and could it be used to explain the in vivo situation?

2. P291 Ref 35 and 36 described the serum levels of BAFF were elevated in IgA nephropathy, which may not be proper to be used as evidence to indicate the LOCAL concentration increasing of BAFF in kidney.

3. P 302 If possible, the author should find more evidence to demonstrate the BAFF-R could be expressed on mesangial cells in vivo.

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

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.