Reviewer's report

Title: Cyproheptadine, an Antihistaminic Drug, Inhibits Proliferation of Hepatocellular Carcinoma Cells by Blocking Cell Cycle Progression through the Activation of P38 MAP Kinase

Version: 3 Date: 22 November 2014

Reviewer: Chiun Hsu

Reviewer's report:

Major compulsory revision
1. The authors argued that cyproheptadine may be preferentially taken by the liver, based on previous case studies. However, the excellent treatment response was seen in HCC patients with lung metastases. Therefore, the discrepancy between the concentration tested in vitro and the achievable levels in the clinic remains unsettled.

2. Thalidomide has both anti-angiogenic and immune modulatory effects. It is not surprising that in vitro tests of HCC cells cannot show significant cytotoxic or anti-proliferative effects.

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

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 declare that I have no competing interests.