Reviewer's report

**Title:** Neoadjuvant administration of Semliki Forest virus expressing interleukin-12 combined with attenuated Salmonella eradicates breast cancer metastasis and achieves long-term survival in immunocompetent mice

**Version:** 2  
**Date:** 28 May 2015

**Reviewer:** Robert Hoffman

**Reviewer's report:**

**Major Compulsory Revisions:**

The combination of Semliki Forest virus vector expressing interleukin-12 (SFV-IL-12) and aroC-33 Salmonella typhimurium strain (LVR01) administration followed by surgical resection of 4T1 tumors inhibited lung metastasis and allowed long-term survival in 90% of treated mice. The results are interesting. However, the authors do not mention the state-of-the-art of Salmonella typhimurium monotherapy of all major cancer types, including 4T1 and human breast cancer in mouse models, that has comparable or better results than the authors combination therapy (Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 102, 755-760, 2005; Cancer Research 66, 7647-7652, 2006; Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 104, 10170-10174, 2007; J. Cell. Biochem. 106, 992-998, 2009; J. Surg. Res. 164, 248-255, 2010; Cell Proliferation 43, 41-48, 2010; Cell Cycle 12, 2774-2780, 2013; J. Cell. Biochem. 115, 1254-1261, 2014; Oncotarget 5, 7119-7125, 2014; Cell Cycle 13, 3958-3963, 2014; Oncotarget 5, 12346-12357, 2014; Oncotarget 5, 12849-12861, 2014; Oncotarget 6, 2615-2622, 2015). The authors must discuss this critical point and cite the indicated references.

**Level of interest:** An exceptional article

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests