Reviewer's report

Title: Ascorbic Acid and Ascobate-2-Phosphate decrease HIF activity and malignant properties of human melanoma cells

Version: 3 Date: 30 July 2015

Reviewer: Randy Jensen

Reviewer's report:

Background: In the opening paragraph melanoma is described as "incurable" and then the next sentence describes "the only successful cure for melanoma" -- you can't have it both ways. Please clarify. As for the rest of the background it is much too long and detailed. Much of this needs to be moved to the discussion and the introduction shortened and made more to the point. Results: Figure 1 would be more convincing if doses lower than 25 um were tested and showed a partial HIF-1 band, at present it seems to be an off/on phenomenon. The same is true of figure 2 where no time points ever show any HIF-1 expression. In figure 3, why does the HIF-1 control not show HIF-1 expression. Otherwise the data is pretty compelling that AA decreases HIF-1 activity. I am less convinced about "malignant properties" as there is only one figure to support the idea of decreasing invasion. This figure seems pretty weak evidence. I can't tell if this demonstrates decreased growth or decreased migration.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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