Reviewer’s report

Title: The synergism of Clinacanthus nutans Lindau extracts with gemcitabine: downregulation of anti-apoptotic markers in squamous pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma

Version: 1 Date: 25 Jul 2019

Reviewer: Reviewer 2

Reviewer's report:

"PEER REVIEWER ASSESSMENTS:

OBJECTIVE - Full research articles: is there a clear objective that addresses a testable research question(s) (brief or other article types: is there a clear objective)?
Yes - there is a clear objective

DESIGN - Is the current approach (including controls and analysis protocols) appropriate for the objective?
No - there are minor issues

EXECUTION - Are the experiments and analyses performed with technical rigor to allow confidence in the results?
No - there are minor issues

STATISTICS - Is the use of statistics in the manuscript appropriate?
Yes - appropriate statistical analyses have been used in the study

INTERPRETATION - Is the current interpretation/discussion of the results reasonable and not overstated?
Yes - the author's interpretation is reasonable

OVERALL MANUSCRIPT POTENTIAL - Is the current version of this work technically sound? If not, can revisions be made to make the work technically sound?
Probably - with minor revisions

PEER REVIEWER COMMENTS:

GENERAL COMMENTS: This study was a well executed in vitro study evaluating anti-proliferative properties of Clinacanthus nutans extracts in various carcinoma cell lines with or without gemcitabine.

REQUESTED REVISIONS: Only minor revisions are required:
It may be important to add the previously reported studies evaluating the chemical composition of extracts from C mutant plant using mass spectrometry in order to further explore or discuss which substances could contribute to the different effects among LP, LN, SP and SN which the authors examined in this study.

The difference among three pancreatic ductal carcinoma cell lines used in this study in terms of synergistic effects of gemcitabine and SN extracts should be further discussed, especially SW1990/BxPC3 versus AsPC1 cells. In addition, the mechanisms of this synergistic effects should be more discussed.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

No

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable
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