

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Virology

**Manuscript NO:** 33083

**Title:** Highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART) dysregulates proliferation and differentiation of human pre-adipocytes

**Reviewer's code:** 03370303

**Reviewer's country:** Japan

**Science editor:** Xiu-Xia Song

**Date sent for review:** 2017-02-07

**Date reviewed:** 2017-02-08

| CLASSIFICATION   | LANGUAGE EVALUATION  | SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT                          | CONCLUSION  |
|--|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing     | Google Search:                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Accept                                   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing           | <input type="checkbox"/> The same title        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing | <input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication | <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism            | <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor                 |  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No         | <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision                           |
|  |  | BPG Search:                                    |   |
|  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> The same title        |   |
|  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication |   |
|  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism            |   |
|  |  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No         |   |

## COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This manuscript is worth publishing, reporting the synergistic or cooperative effects of anti-HIV agents on inhibiting adipogenesis by performing in vitro experiments using human materials. It will help us to recognize the importance to take extra caution in executing HAART. However, there are some minor issues to be addressed before publication in World Journal of Virology. Scientific concerns: METHODS: 1) In "Patients and study design" section, more detailed information regarding the usage of the clinical samples is required. Did authors use the mixed samples of 10 donors or did they use each sample individually? Please describe precise information. 2) In "Pre-adipocyte isolation and culture" section, more detailed information about "albumin" is required (in page 6, 2nd line from the bottom). Did authors use human serum albumin, bovine serum albumin or recombinant human albumin? Please describe precise information. RESULTS: 1) Although the findings are solid and convincing, the results consist of only digital data. To enhance the credibility of the findings, it is strongly

recommended that authors show some analog data as well; for example, photos of the Oil Red O staining of the typical finding in Fig. 2. 2) In Fig. 1, authors performed MTT assay to evaluate cell proliferation. However, this assay also reflects cell viability. Therefore, it is strongly suggested that the term “proliferation” would be replaced by other words such as “proliferation/viability” and “MTT-reducing activity” and so on. Grammatical concerns: 1) In page 6, 4th line from the bottom, the phrase “... or same medium .....” should be corrected as “... or the same medium .....”. 2) In page 7, line 15, the word “500nm” should be corrected as “500 nm”.

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**Name of journal:** World Journal of Virology

**Manuscript NO:** 33083

**Title:** Highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART) dysregulates proliferation and differentiation of human pre-adipocytes

**Reviewer's code:** 02807835

**Reviewer's country:** United States

**Science editor:** Xiu-Xia Song

**Date sent for review:** 2017-02-07

**Date reviewed:** 2017-02-15

| CLASSIFICATION                                    | LANGUAGE EVALUATION   | SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT                          | CONCLUSION   |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent       | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing                 | Google Search:                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Accept                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing | <input type="checkbox"/> The same title        | <input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing  | <input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication | <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair            | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected                            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor            |   | BPG Search:                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision                |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> The same title        |  |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication |  |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism            |  |
|   |   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No         |  |

## COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This is a reasonably interesting paper in which the authors studied the impact of different anti-viral treatment on the preadipocyte growth and differentiation into adipocytes. Here are a few points need to be addressed before the paper can be accepted. 1) The study only concentrate on preadipocytes to adipocyte differentiation. It should include some other cell types, ie. fibroblast, as a control to show the specificity of those antiviral agents. 2) The experimental design to test the hypothesis on those anti-viral agents on preadipocytes is reasonable, however lack some of the details. All data were presented in relative scale, so it is hard to judge the successfulness of their approach. It would be convincing if some Oil Red O stain picture for the differentiation of preadipocytes to adipocytes were presented. 3) The authors should perform some RT-PCR analysis on the gene expression pattern in the cells to analyze the genes that are involved in adipogenesis. 4) There are some difference in their presentation of the nomenclature. The HSLs were referred to as HAART-lipodystrophy in Page 4, and



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HAART-associated lipodystrophy in Page 10 and 11. It need to be consistent. 5)  
The choice of wording is a little off. It would be better to describe the effect of the anti-viral agents to the differentiation to be suppression or inhibitory rather than depression.