EXPRESSION OF CONCERN

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Effects of emodin on the demethylation of tumor-suppressor genes in pancreatic cancer PANC-1 cells

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Following the publication of this paper, an interested reader drew the authors' attention to the fact that it was unexpected that they would have identified the expression of p16 in the PANC-1 cell line, as shown in Fig. 6 on p. 3021, since it has been shown that this cell line is known to have a homozygous deletion in the *CDKN2a* gene that encodes the protein [for example, see the paper by Carlos Caldas and colleagues entitled 'Frequent somatic mutations and homozygous deletions of the p16 (MTS1) gene in pancreatic adenocarcinoma'. Nat Genet vol. 8.1 (1994): p. 27-32]. In addition, the DNMT1 blots in Fig. 6 were strikingly similar to data that subsequently appeared in an article in the same journal (*Oncology Reports*) that featured several of the same authors.

The authors have been contacted by the Editorial Office to offer an explanation for the unexpected expression of p16 in the PANC-1 cell line and the apparent re-use of the abovementioned western blot data in this paper, and we are awaiting their response. Owing to the fact that the Editorial Office has been made aware of potential issues surrounding the scientific integrity of this paper, we are issuing an Expression of Concern to notify readers of these potential problems while the Editorial Office continues to investigate this matter further.

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