**Supplementary figure legends**

**Figure S1. YM155 treatment induces apoptosis in pancreatic cancer cells.**

**(A)**, Pancreatic cancer cells were treated with DMSO (control), or YM155 (10 nM) for 48 h. Apoptosis was measured by nuclear dye Hoechst 33258 staining to identify condensed apoptotic nuclei as described in ‘Materials and methods’ (apoptotic cells are demarcated with white arrows). **(B)**, Pancreatic cancer cells were treated with different concentrations of YM155 ranging from 0 to 20 nM for 48 h. Apoptosis was assessed by a DNA ladder assay as described in ‘Materials and methods’. **(C)**, Pancreatic cancer cells were treated with YM155 (10 nM), over a time-course lasting 48 h. Apoptosis was measured by Hoechst staining and statistical analysis was performed to analyze the significance of the ratio of apoptotic cells. Each experiment was conducted in triplicate and repeated independently (\* p<0.05). **(D)**, Pancreatic cancer cells were treated with a range of doses of YM155 from 0 to 20 nM for 24 h. Apoptosis was measured by Hoechst staining and statistical analysis was performed to analyze the significance of the ratio of apoptotic cells. Each experiment was conducted in triplicate and repeated independently (\*p<0.05). **(E)**, Pancreatic cancer cells were treated with different concentrations of YM155 over a period of 48h. Cells were harvested and lysates were prepared for Western blotting to detect levels of cleaved Caspase 8, Caspase 9, cleaved Caspase 3, Bid and cleaved PARP. β-actin protein levels were used as an equal protein loading control. **(F),** Cells were treated with YM155 (10 nM) for a time-course ending after 48 h, cells were then harvested and cell lysates were prepared for Western blotting to detect cleaved Caspase 8, Caspase 9, cleaved Caspase 3, Bid and cleaved PARP. β-actin protein levels were assessed as a control for equal protein loading.

**Figure S2. YM155 induces apoptosis and death receptor 5 up-regulation in PC-3. (A),** PC3 cells were treated with DMSO (control) or YM155 (10 nM) for 48 h. Apoptosis was measured by Hoechst 33258 staining to label chromatin condensation as described in ‘Materials and methods’ (representative apoptotic cells are demarcated by open arrows). Representative Figures are shown and every experiment was repeated three times. **(B),** PC-3 cells were treated with different concentrations of YM155 for 48 h as indicated. Cell lysates were prepared and subjected to Western blotting. Survivin, and DR5 expression levels were measured with specific polyclonal antibodies recognizing Survivin and DR5. β-actin protein levels were assessed as the control for equal loading of protein. Representative bands are shown and every experiment was repeated three times.