Reviewer's report

**Title:** Longitudinal fluctuations in PD1 and PD-L1 expression in association with changes in anti-viral immune response in chronic hepatitis B

**Version:** 5  **Date:** 31 July 2012

**Reviewer:** Christoph Neumann-Haefelin

**Reviewer's report:**

The authors have now provided a control staining without tetramer as well as control tetramer stainings from HBV-negative controls. These data are shown in the supplementary materials.

The validity of these controls is strongly reduced, since the gating procedure is different from the gating procedure in Figure 1 - using the same gating cut-off for the PE (tetramer) channel, none of the tests in Figure 1 would be positive.

In conclusion, the validity/ significance of the FACS data is limited. This needs to be kept in mind when interpreting the data.

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**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