Reviewer's report

Title: Comparison of the specificity of different Streptococcus pneumoniae specific PCR assays

Version: 3 Date: 17 March 2010

Reviewer: Jim Dunn

Reviewer's report:

In the report by El Aila et al., it appears that the major changes necessary for publication have been incorporated. However, there are a few grammatical corrections that can be left to the authors to correct.

Minor Essential Revisions

Page 2, Abstract: The last sentence should have a period.
Page 3, Line 13: The "and" at the end of the sentence should be removed.
Page 3, Line 16: Add an "e" to "pneumonia".
Page 3, Line 24: Remove "out" for clarity.
Page 3, Line 25: Change "wrong" to "incorrect".
Page 4, Line 14: There are 73 streptococcal isolates listed in Table 1, not 68.
Page 7, Line 8: For clarity remove "In addition" and begin the sentence with "In this study".
Page 8, Lines 1-2: For consistency, use "Spn9802-PCR" instead of listing the primer names.
Page 9, Lines 1-2: For clarity the sentence should read "...when this PCR is applied for the direct detection and identification of S. pneumoniae in clinical samples."
Page 9, Lines 4-5: Remove "to" at the end of line 4 and change "eventual" to "potentially" so that the sentence reads "...to help resolve potentially ambiguous results..."
Page 9, Line 11: Add "us" so the sentence reads "...and allowed us to design highly specific primers."

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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.