Author's response to reviews

Title: Evaluation of non-inferiority of intradermal versus adjuvanted seasonal influenza vaccine using two serological techniques: a randomised comparative study

Authors:

Margaret C Haugh (mhaugh@spmsd.com)
Pierre Van Damme (pierre.vandamme@ua.ac.be)
Robert Arnou (alti2@wanadoo.fr)
Froukje Kafeja (froukje.oosterhuis@ua.ac.be)
Anne Fiquet (afiquet@spmsd.com)
Patrick Richard (prichard@spmsd.com)
Stephane Thomas (sthomas@spmsd.com)
Gilles Meghlaoui (gilles.meghlaoui@wanadoo.fr)
Sandrine I Samson (ssamson@spmsd.com)
Emilio Ledesma (emilio.ledesma@hotmail.com)

Version: 2 Date: 22 January 2010

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Dr Norton

**Evaluation of non-inferiority of intradermal versus adjuvanted seasonal influenza vaccine using two serological techniques: a randomised comparative study**

I am delighted to submit the article detailed above for consideration for publication in *BMC Infectious Diseases*.

Seasonal influenza can be a severe disease, and annual vaccination is the primary preventive measure in groups at risk (children and the elderly). We compared the immunogenicity of an intradermal seasonal influenza vaccine with that of an adjuvanted vaccine in volunteers aged ≥65 years recruited at three centres in Belgium and seven centres in France.

The immunogenicity and safety of the intradermal seasonal influenza vaccine was comparable with that of the adjuvanted vaccine. The findings of our study indicated that intradermal vaccination to target the immune properties of the skin appears to be an appropriate strategy to address the challenge of declining immune responses in the elderly.

The authors feel that these data are of importance to physicians to increase their understanding regarding vaccines, and may enable them to make an informed choice regarding the optimal route of administration in their patients. We also feel that the open-access platform of your publication and its strong reputation make it the most appropriate journal to publish these important findings.

I confirm that all authors approved the manuscript and that this contribution has not been published and that it is under consideration for publication elsewhere.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for further assistance regarding this submission.

Yours sincerely

Professor Pierre van Damme