Reviewer's report

**Title:** Colonization of pediatric cancer patients with Candida species does not lead to elevated levels of (1->3)-beta-D-glucan, Candida mannan or Candida DNA in serum samples

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 25 February 2010

**Reviewer:** Andreas H. H Groll

**Reviewer's report:**

The manuscript submitted by Dr. Mokaddas and colleagues has two major shortcomings:

1. The lack of systematic sampling from relevant sites. Apparently, surveillance swabs were obtained at random from sites that are likely of no relevance for invasiveness of the organism (i.e., nostrils, ear, and, to a lesser extent, groin, axilla, throat). The sites that would have been most relevant (i.e., oropharynx; rectum) were not sampled.

2. The lack of a control cohort (colonized vs. non-colonized patients).

Since the colonisation data that have been gathered are not representative, the results have the potential to lead to invalid conclusions.

**Minor point:**

The assessment of the MIC values of Candida albicans vs. those of C. dubliniensis is out of context and should be removed from the ms.

**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 have no competing interests to declare.