Reviewer's report

Title: Serial Interferon-gamma Release Assays during Treatment of Active Tuberculosis in Young Adults

Version: 1 Date: 5 July 2010

Reviewer: T. Mark Doherty

Reviewer's report:

This is a solid, well-written manuscript, addressing an issue that is still unclear – the use of the QUANTiferon test for monitoring treatment. The authors’ insight on page 10 as to a potential reason for discordant results from prior studies in different regions is particularly cogent.

Major Compulsory Revisions.
None

Minor Essential Revisions.
In the abstract – and throughout the MS – participants are described as having no-underlying disease. What is really meant is no underlying nontuberculous disease, and this is clarified at one point. However the initial impression given is that the participants were healthy (ie: without symptoms) which given that many of them had symptomatic TB, is confusing. This should be clarified.

On Page 6, the criteria for a positive result are given. While I would not change the manuscript, since this guideline was current at the time the study was done, I would note that this guideline is no longer current. See the most recent CDC release for the new guidelines, which have been developed in collaboration with Cellestis, who produce the QUANTiferon kit.

Discretionary Revisions
None

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