Reviewer's report

Title: A phase II, open-label, multicentre study to evaluate the immunogenicity and safety of an adjuvanted pandemic (H5N1) influenza vaccine in healthy Japanese adults

Version: 1 Date: 6 August 2010

Reviewer: Yee-Joo Tan

Reviewer's report:

This is a clearly written manuscript that describes a study on the immunogenicity and tolerability of a H5N1 vaccine adjuvanted with AS03A in Japanese adults. The data are well-presented and convincing. There are a few minor essential revisions required.

(i) Page 8, section on “assessment of immunogenicity”
Please state if the sera were subjected to 56 °C treatment to inactivate complement.

(ii) Page 9, line 19: “standardized amount of virus”
Please describe this in a more precise manner. For example, please state the tissue culture infective doses used.

(iii) Page 9, line 22: “After the incubation period, ..”
Please state the length of the incubation period.

(iv) Page 9, line 23: “haemagglutination of chicken red blood cells”
Please clarify why horse erythrocyte was used in the HI but chicken red blood cells were used here.

(v) Page 14, section on “Neutralizing antibody response”
Please present the results in a Table.

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.