Reviewer's report

Title: Acute dengue virus 2 infection in Gabonese patients is associated with an early innate immune response, including strong interferon alpha production

Version: 3 Date: 26 October 2010

Reviewer: Daniel Libraty

Reviewer's report:

Major- overall, authors have removed some of the previously overstated conclusions. The paper would be further improved by discussing in a little more detail that serum IFN-alpha was measurable up to 5 days after illness onset in some of their patients. In data, show numbers of subjects at each time point. In discussion, the IFNalpha data is something that can be better compared/contrasted with other studies in the literature from Asia or Americas, and fits into their final conclusions.

Statistics- the authors explanation for not incorporating a multiple comparison statistical test is difficult to understand, and I believe not correct.

Minor essential revisions:
1. Authors still refer to kinetic analysis- they should remove this characterization, as they did not measure longitudinal changes in cytokine levels.
2. IN discussion, sentence "Decreased IFN-alpha levels have been shown after the peak in viremia..." makes it sound like IFNalpha levels were low. Sentence should likely state that IFN-alpha levels were decreasing after the peak in viremia...?

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests