Reviewer’s report

Title: Sequential multiplex PCR assay for determining capsular serotypes of colonizing S. pneumoniae

Version: 3 Date: 21 February 2011

Reviewer: Judith E Mueller

Reviewer’s report:

Discretionary revision

The authors replied to all critical points I raised in the first review.
The only suboptimal reply concerns comment 1. “The methods of the carriage study that yielded the Sp strains should be briefly described, to allow the reader judging on whether this was a representative sample of the age group, the number of colonies analysed per participant, and whether multiple carriage was detected.” Although the authors added some information, they do not provide any element on the representativity, number of colonies or multiple carriage, as requested.

As these issues are not central to understanding and interpretation of the paper, I do not want to further insist on this point. However, the presented serotype data would gain in value if these elements were available. The reference paper which supposedly contains such information is still in press and thus cannot be accessed.

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.