Reviewer's report

Title: The use of microbead-based spoligotyping for Mycobacterium tuberculosis complex to evaluate the quality of the conventional method: Providing guidelines for Quality Assurance when working on membranes

Version: 3 Date: 4 March 2011

Reviewer: Igor Mokrousov

Reviewer's report:

My initial comments were made based on my experience in two labs in Russia and Guadeloupe, both using home-made membranes, both occasionally using commercial membranes, and using different Taq. In my Russian experience, we never had problem with spacer #15, and instead the polymerase strongly influenced the strength of signals.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests