Author's response to reviews

Title: Evaluation of bleach-sedimentation for sterilizing and concentrating M. tuberculosis in sputum samples

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Dear Andy Butler,

Thank you very much for publishing our research and sorry that this manuscript has been so protracted.

The Wellcome Trust funded this research and agree in principle to reimburse the open access publication fees. However, they reimburse institutions not individuals and i no longer have a UK-based grant to be reimbursed. This issue caused considerable difficulties with our last BMC publication (Onifade et al) because the administrative problems with the payment only became apparent after the article was published, which led to embarrassing emails being sent to our international collaborators about unpaid charges.

I'm pleased to report that the Wellcome Centre for Clinical Tropical Medicine at Imperial College has agreed to pay the publication fee which they will then claim back from the Wellcome Trust. Please would you liaise with Olga Leonova, Centre Administrator and Project Manager, Wellcome Centre for Clinical Tropical Medicine, Room 232, 2nd Floor, Medical School Building, Imperial College London, St Mary's Campus, Norfolk Place, London W2 1PG, T: +44 (0)20 7594 3891, on copy to this email, about the invoicing? Please copy to me because i'm keen to understand how this should work for future publications.
Please can I suggest proceeding with the publication after an invoice has been approved, to ensure that everything is in order before publication?

Concerning the manuscript, I believe that we have dealt with all the requested issues. The manuscript was written by someone for whom English was their second language so we've also taken this opportunity to have the manuscript very thoroughly copy-edited, but I don't believe that there are any significant changes of content except:

an error about sputum volume has been corrected – the manuscript did say that the volume was > 5ml which has been corrected to the actual median volume of the samples (1.5 ml).

Table 1 has had some more data included, which was previously only in the text, if this is problematic then just let me know and we can instead make these two corrections to the previous manuscript version, but the new attached and uploaded version is worded more clearly.

Thanks for your help and please do let me know when and how I can assist further.

Kind regards

Carlton

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