Reviewer's report

Title: Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) types Western blot profiles as surrogate markers of HIV disease progression and predictors of vertical transmission among pregnant women in Harare, Zimbabwe

Version: 1 Date: 13 July 2010

Reviewer: Nitika Pant Pai

Reviewer's report:

Minor essential Revisions: My comments are in the attached report.

The feasibility of using Western Blot in many Sub saharan African settings has been questioned, where often combination of ELISAs and Rapid tests are utilized and Western Blot is performed in cases of discordant ELISA s and RT results. Disease progression is dependent on a lot of factors--host response, viral interactions, subtype interactions, co-morbidities, so the broader utility of this finding can be judged only in a predictive model.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

No competing interests.