Reviewer's report

Title: Benznidazole-treatment of late chronic Chagas' disease leads to an overall cytokine down-regulation that upon Trypanossoma cruzi antigen stimulation can be shifted towards a Type-1 modulated profile by monocytes, NK and CD8+ T-cells

Version: 1 Date: 9 March 2012

Reviewer: Ludmila Camargo

Reviewer's report:

I request Minor Essential Revisions for the paper entitled:

“Benznidazole-treatment of late chronic Chagas' disease leads to an overall cytokine down-regulation that upon Trypanossoma cruzi antigen stimulation can be shifted towards a Type-1 modulated profile by monocytes, NK and CD8+ T-cells”

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Is a well written manuscript presenting interesting information regarding the effect of Benznidazole treatment on late indeterminate Chagas' disease patients.

The only significant comments are:

1) Why the authors used samples from indeterminate Chagas disease patients treated with Benznidazole seven years after the end of etiological treatment? I think it’s a long period of time after the treatment, and maybe what you are observing is not the direct effect of the drug. One interesting thing it would be, analyzing samples derived from the same patient before and right after Benznidazole treatment.

2) Another issue is the use of epimastigotes forms to produce Trypanosoma cruzi antigen preparation. Why did you choose to use epimastigotes instead of tripomastigotes forms? I think it would be a better option, as it was already demonstrated that antigens from tripomastigotes forms (like GPI-mucins) but not live epimastigotes are potent inducers of cytokines like IL-12 and TNF-alpha by macrophages.

3) When the authors wrote in the text that “Significant differences at p<0.05 are indicated by letter ‘a’ and * represents statistical differences. Please clarify, the letter a means that it’s not statistical different? If yes the authors should explain this better in the legend
**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests