Reviewer's report

Title: Negative effect of smoking on the performance of the QuantiFERON -TB Gold In Tube test

Version: 3 Date: 23 August 2012

Reviewer: alessandro sanduzzi

Reviewer's report:

the authors might clarify how they evaluated the role of smoking, independently from the role of HIV, as factors which can reduce the iGRA performance.

besides, it's not clear the sentence, in page 11, "...The limitation of this approach is that TB patients are potentially immunosuppressed which may affect the result of the IGRA performance compared to healthy individuals with LTBI and bias the results..." : probably, this is one of the reasons of the limitate utility of IGRA in TB disease.....

It's useful, among the references, to add the paper "USEFULNESS OF IFN-GAMMA RELEASE ASSAYS IN CLINICAL MANAGEMENT OF DIFFICULT TB CASES: EVIDENCE FROM CLINICAL PRACTICE"

Authors: Bocchino, M.; Matarese, A.; Bellofiore, B.; et al.


in page 5, line 10,

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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'