Reviewer's report

Title: Cytokine profile, proliferation and phosphorylation of ERK1/2 and Akt in circulating mononuclear cells from individuals during the chronic intestinal phase of Schistosomiasis mansoni infection

Version: 2 Date: 28 August 2012

Reviewer: Fernanda de Araujo

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

Background:
Second paragraph: The authors should add peripheral blood mononuclear cell responses (PBMC) in to the sentence.

Results Section
Cell Proliferation- Last sentence: The authors should cut the word “the”.

Discussion Section
Cytokine response to S. mansoni antigens- Fourth paragraph is confusing, missing some references (first sentence) and with concept errors.

The authors said that: “however, additional experiments, such as intracytoplasmatic staining for these stimuli, are required to determine the specific cellular response” but others have already published data about the cytokine profile with intracytoplasmatic staining during S. mansoni infection. Thus, the authors must discuss based on the literature instead of saying that it must be done.

Sixth paragraph- The authors said: “In the chronic phase of schistosomiasis, TNF-# production was described as an important stimulator of nitric oxide production and increased IL-10 production in response to the PIII-fraction of the soluble antigen of S. mansoni adult worms”. What the authors meant by that? This sentence is missing some word.

Seventh paragraph was described as methods. The authors should resume the data since it is discussion section and not methods section.

Tenth Paragraph: The authors discuss: “The results of the proliferation and cytokine assays did not have any statistical correlation because the proliferation assays were performed on T lymphocyte subtypes, and the cytokine data were obtained from the culture supernatant rather than from intracytoplasmatic staining”. The authors should not explain the results with that justification.

The authors should rewrite the Cytokine response to S. mansoni antigens section since it is very complicate and difficult to follow.
Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests