Reviewer's report

Title: Altered Serum miRNAs as Biomarkers for the Early Diagnosis of Tuberculosis Infection

Version: 1 Date: 17 June 2012

Reviewer: Eliana Coccia

Reviewer's report:
Qi and colleagues faced with an important issue in TB field. The authors attempted to identify the altered miRNA profile in the serum of TB patients. In addition, after a comparative analysis with those present in the serum of healthy control, a pannel of miRNA was identified and further validated by real time PCR. Although at the present stage the characterization of altered miRNA in TB patients did not allow to discriminate among different forms of TB infection, the work is interesting and provides the basis for new diagnostic tools. The data are well controlled and the methods well described.

Discretionary Revisions
The overall importance of this manuscript could be improved by the analysis of the identified miRNA in patients with latent TB or in subject vaccinated with BCG.

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:
No conflict of interest.