Reviewer's report

Title: Quantitative assessment of microbicide-induced injury in the ovine vaginal epithelium using confocal microendoscopy

Version: 3 Date: 2 December 2011

Reviewer: Thomas Moench

Reviewer's report:

I have reviewed the Authors' response to the review, and the revised manuscript. I am satisfied with the responses to questions raised in the review, and with the revisions to the manuscript.

Minor essential revisions:

On this reading of the manuscript, I noticed some problems with the references cited in the first paragraph of the Background section, which should be corrected before publication:

Reference 1 should be deleted: The Roddy study was not terminated prematurely due to safety concerns. An increase in genital lesions was observed with the N9 film used, but the increase was not statistically significant.

References 5-7 do not describe studies measuring altered susceptibility, rather they are references to show the activity of detergents in inactivating viruses (HSV-2 and HIV). Those references (5-7) should be dropped and replaced by references 8 and 9, which do describe studies measuring microbicide-candidate altered susceptibility in animal models. References 8-10 are also appropriate to reference the inflammation and other epithelial damage that may be caused by microbicide candidates, as these references are now used.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest 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.