Author's response to reviews

Title: Multiple-antigen ELISA for melioidosis - A novel approach to the improved serodiagnosis of melioidosis

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Philippa Harris
Senior Executive Editor
BMC Infectious Diseases

Dear Dr. Harris,

Response to the request for ethics statement and competing interests statement

MS: 1494998379829408
Research article
Multiple-antigen ELISA for melioidosis - A novel approach to the improved serodiagnosis of melioidosis
Yuka Hara, Chui-Yoke Chin, Rahmah Mohamed, Savithri D Puthucheary and Sheila Nathan
BMC Infectious Diseases (Section: Bacterial and fungal diseases)

In response to the advice to adhere to Helsinki Declaration for the use of human samples in this study, we would like to inform the BMC editorial board that all the samples tested were archived samples generously provided by University Malaya Medical Centre, Hospital Kuantan, Hospital Kota Bharu and the Institute for Medical Research in Malaysia. The samples originated from patients presenting with melioidosis symptoms and consist of left-over samples not required by the hospitals. The healthy control samples provided by Clinipath (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd, a private diagnostic laboratory were similarly samples that are routinely discarded. No names of individuals were made available to us when the samples were provided. Therefore, no consent was obtained to use these sera samples.

We have included a short statement in the Methods section under “Human sera samples” sub-heading to clarify that these samples are archived samples collected between 1985 and 2005 in Malaysia.

I hope this explanation is satisfactory for the editorial board to consider proceeding with peer review process for this manuscript.

We declare no competing interest and included the statement at the end of the text as advised.

Yours sincerely

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