Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 4 Date: 15 January 2013

Reviewer: Robert E Norton

Reviewer’s report:

This is a well written and relevant piece of research. I have a number of points which could be addressed prior to acceptance:

1. How many duplicate readings were made prior to calculating the mean and Standard deviation?

2. What was the reproducibility of the positives?

3. I am unclear as to the difference between the cocktail of antigens used and what is called multiple antigens. This needs clarification. If they are the same then one term only should be used.

4. Why was the IHA not used as a comparator?

5. Why were culture positive, IHA negative sera not included? It is well known that up to 50% of culture positive sera will be IHA negative. It would have been useful to see how this antigen combination might have performed.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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'