Reviewer's report

**Title:** In situ Molecular Identification of the Influenza A (H1N1) 2009 Neuraminidase in patients with severe and fatal infections during a pandemic in Mexico City

**Version:** 5  **Date:** 24 June 2012

**Reviewer:** Jesus F Bermejo-Martin

**Reviewer's report:**

This is an improved version of an original work revealing the possibility of using paraffin-embedded lung samples from 2009 pandemic influenza virus infected patients to detect viral presence by in situ PCR.

The authors have implemented the changes as requested by the reviewers. Although the article relies on a limited number of samples and patients (n=8), they are precious material since they come from autopsies of patients infected by the pandemic virus.

The method proposed in this article could help other authors to employ similar approaches in autopsy tissues, not only from lung but also from other sources. The authors succeeded in sequencing parts of the NA gene of the virus. It validates their work and provides valuable information on the original virus sequence originating the 2009 Pandemics. The authors confirm the tropism of the virus for Type I and Type II alveolar cells, which is an important information to find out where in the lung the pathogenic events start following infection by the virus.

**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'