Reviewer's report

Title: Microarray Analysis of MicroRNA Expression in Peripheral Blood Mononuclear Cells of Critically ill Patients with Influenza A (H1N1)

Version: 3  Date: 16 January 2013

Reviewer: Jean-Claude Manuguerra

Reviewer’s report:

Hoa Song et al. manuscript entitled “Microarray Analysis of MicroRNA Expression in Peripheral Blood Mononuclear Cells of Critically ill Patients with Influenza A (H1N1)” deals with a very interesting topic, which is fully relevant for the scope and readership of BMC Infectious Diseases. The question posed by the authors is very clearly defined and the material and methods are appropriate and well described. According to the results presented with their statistically significance and despite a small number of patients included in this study (24=11+13), the data presented here are sound.

In my opinion, the authors followed the appropriate standard for reporting and data depositing as well as the ethical requirements for such a study.

The manuscript is easy and pleasant to read; the text is mostly accurate and the title and abstract reflect well its content. The different parts are well balanced and the subject of the study is well presented. It is easy to follow the reasoning of the authors by reading the manuscript. The list of relevant 82 references illustrates the clear acknowledgement of the published work upon which they built their research.

Line numbering would have made reviewing easier!

• Discretionary Revisions (which are recommendations for improvement but which the author can choose to ignore)

As a general rule, flu should be replaced by influenza.

In the Method section P11, I would move the list of primers to a table.

In the Results section, P13 I would convert table 1 into text here.

• Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

I think the acronyms qPCR qnd qRT-PCR were not used in a consistent manner.

In the results section P15, it is written that the ….” increase in the MAPK14 expression level was observed in PBMCs from critically ill patients” … was … “with significant difference” whereas in figure 5 ns is indicated for MAPK14.
• Major Compulsory Revisions (which the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
  None

**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:**

I declare that I have no competing interests