Reviewer's report

Title: Modeling the public health impact of malaria vaccines for developers and policymakers

Version: 2 Date: 27 June 2012

Reviewer: Jon Kim Andrus

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This paper is well-written and very informative.

Major Compusory Revisions

- In the first paragraph of the introduction the authors over-state the importance of modeling. Alan Hinman frequently says, "All models are wrong; some models are useful." I believe this model may be useful, but the text should reflect more adequately that models are only a adjunct tool. To say that "it is imperative that modeling estimates be made a available to support..." is an overstatement. They add to the body of evidence, but are not the magic bullet to decision making as the statement may imply to some readers.

- On page 5 references 10 and 11 need to be reversed to be consistent with the text.

- The authors need to clarify and explain in more detail the top paragraph on page 6. It would nice to understand how a model can simultaneously address up stream (vaccine developers) and down stream (policy and finance) issues. It may be possible, but it needs to be explained so the reader can better understand.

- On page 7 please explain how a first generation malaria vaccine is going to be available by 2015. This seems ambitious and needs more clarification.

- Please include a summary table of the vaccine characteristics, including cold chain requirements, route of administration, number of doses, booster dose requirements, etc.

- The logistic requirements (cold chain, personel, training) need to be better explained, especially the cold chain.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have not competing interests.