Reviewer's report

Title: Humoral and cellular responses to an unadjuvanted monovalent H1N1 pandemic influenza vaccine in hospital employees.

Version: 3 Date: 9 September 2013

Reviewer: Zoltan Vajo

Reviewer's report:

The authors responded to the queries of this reviewer, however, I don't see the appropriate changes in the revised manuscript.

First, it would be important to include into the abstract which vaccine was used (manufacturer, etc) and that according to the study, it did not fulfill EMEA/CHMP criteria for licensing. The authors' possible explanation to this is speculative, and it is premature to discard current licensing criteria, even in health care workers, and propose new parameters based on a study with 60 participants (see conclusions).

I still see no sample size calculation in the revised paper. The explanation the authors offer in their cover letter is not entirely acceptable. First, they determined that the ideal sample size would be 277. However, it was not possible to study that many subjects for the authors. Then, based on their preliminary studies (which are not shown, nor any information about it), based on a mean response of 3.8 and an SD of 4.0, the authors "assumed" normal distribution - however, no distribution calculation is mentioned, and it is unlikely with the mean and SD they provide (3.8 +/- 4.0) that their data in fact had normal distribution. Lastly, the authors reference the EMEA/CHMP criteria, which, however were not meant for an observational study like this.

Nonetheless, the authors did not include any of this into the manuscript.

The rest of the queries were addressed appropriately.

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

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

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.