Reviewer's report

Title: An Adjuvanted Inactivated Murine Cytomegalovirus (MCMV) Vaccine Induces Potent and Long-term Protective Immunity against a Lethal Challenge with Virulent MCMV

Version: 3 Date: 30 January 2014

Reviewer: Joanna Stewart

Reviewer's report:

Minor

1. The statistical methods do not make it crystal clear how the analyses were performed. The p values quoted are all for paired comparisons which is appropriate as these were the questions it was desired to answer. The methods state ANOVA was used. It is not clear whether the p values quoted came from contrasts within an analysis of variance including all treatments, just those of the same dose, or whether separate analyses were performed for each of the pairwise comparisons quoted. Obviously how this was done would slightly influence the results but the strength of this study is the very consistent pattern in the data and the differences are fairly obvious so to a certain extent the p values are of minor importance. The theoretical concern about conducting multiple non-independent tests is therefore not very important. It would, however, be desirable to make it clear in the methods exactly what was tested and how - ie simply pairwise and which pairs or an overall analysis and if so how the pairwise p values were obtained - from straight, unadjusted contrasts as pre planned comparisons? By using something like a Dunnett's test comparing all adjuvants to the same dose adjuvant free?.

2. line 312 - You should not imply that you found a difference in long term protection with MF59 and alum when your observed rates were so similar

3. Typo - line 152 routes

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests