Reviewer’s report

Title: Evaluation of seven serological assays for diagnosis of tularemia

Version: 1 Date: 20 December 2013

Reviewer: Akitoyo Hotta

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Major Compulsory Revisions
Information of tularemia patients and their sera would be necessary to describe. How were they diagnosed as tularemia? By serological method (which method?), PCR or isolation of bacteria? Which clinical period were the sera taken?

Cut-off value for in-house ELISA should be determined by ROC and two-graph-ROC curve analyses.

Minor Essential Revisions
l. 77
The authors described ‘novel assays’. However, it is unclear which assays are novel methods in this paragraph. The authors should indicate clearly.

l. 123 ATCC29648 is not Francisella tularensis.

l. 212 According to table 1, the sensitivity of the in-house ELISA was 79%.
Table 1 What are meaning ‘Positive’ and ‘Negative’ in column ‘n’? Tularemia patients and Healthy donors?

Level of interest: An article of insufficient interest to warrant publication in a scientific/medical journal

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 no competing interests