Reviewer’s report

Title: The variations of VP1 protein might be associated with nervous system symptoms caused by enterovirus 71 infection

Version: Date: 9 December 2013

Reviewer: Yoke-Fun Chan

Reviewer’s report:

Date: 6 December 2013

The variations of VP1 protein might be associated with nervous system symptoms caused by enterovirus 71 infection

Major compulsory revisions
1. Fig 2. The methods to draw the 3D structure should be written in Methods and figure legend.
2. Discussion, pg7, line 18-19. EV-71 could potentially spread through neural route to the brain. It also infects other cells, not just neurons.
3. Discussion to include limitations such as only about 180 isolates were chosen and that genotypes distribution have geographical restrictions.
4. References format. Inconsistent formatting.

Minor essential revisions
1. Pg 4, line 7. Change to the date of Sep 30, 2012 to “as of”
2. Table 1. Can be placed as Supplementary table.
3. Discussion, pg 4, line 15. Change “neuron” to neural.
4. Fig 2 figure legend. Starts with capital.

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

Declaration of competing interests:

No competing interest