Reviewer's report

Title: Prevalence and Genetic Characterization of Cryptosporidium, Enterocytozoon, Giardia and Cyclospora in Diarrheal Outpatients in China

Version: 2 Date: 20 November 2013

Reviewer: Stephen Vaughan

Reviewer's report:

- Major Compulsory Revisions
  
  Provide Definition of Diarrhea
  
  Why were Wet Prep/AFB staining/EIA Crypto/Giardia/Entamoeba + other bacterial causes of diarrhea (C. diff/E. coli/Shigella/Salmonella/Yersinia/ Campylobacter/Cholera) not included?

  Biggest concern with this paper is that there is no testing versus Gold Standard (other tests as outlined above) and their was not an extensive search for other (traditionally more commonly) causes of diarrhea, therefore we can not be sure that the patients Diarrhea was caused by the identified organisms.

  The finding of C. andersoni in stool does not confirm it is the cause of diarrhea, but rather that it was ingested (and the authors state that it is in Shanghai tapwater…therefore it must be passed in stools.

  Therefore the limitations of the paper must clearly outline that these parasites may not be the cause of diarrhea, but are merely found in the stool of diarrheal patients.

- Minor Essential Revisions
  
  Abstract: (Background Line 2) spelling of Wildlife (not widelife)
  
  Background – 1st Paragraph last sentence (provide reference)
  
  Discussion – Last paragraph 2nd sentence (provide reference of aerosol transmission)

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

  Quality of written English: Acceptable

  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