Reviewer's report

Title: Detection of a divergent Parainfluenza 4 in an adult patient with influenza like illness using next-generation sequencing

Version: 2
Date: 23 March 2014

Reviewer: Holly M Frost

Reviewer's report:

Minor Essential Revisions:
The term parainfluenza virus should have a space between both words throughout the document.

Discretionary Revisions:
1. Conclusion of the Abstract: I would suggest eliminating the sentence stating that "These findings suggests a possible role for Parainfluenza 4 in the aetiology of adult respiratory disease within the community setting". While this study further supports this understanding, studies dating back as far as 2009 have shown that PIV is associated with upper and lower respiratory tract infections in otherwise healthy adults in both the inpatient and community setting.
2. Background: It would be helpful to briefly comment on the known differences between PIV4 a and PIV4 b serotypes.
3. Methods: First paragraph. It would be helpful to mention the total number of samples collected from which 299 used in the study were obtained.
4. Results: Was this the only PIV4 virus identified out of the 299 samples? If not, the total number identified, along with their genotypes if known, should be provided. It would also be useful to state how many of the 299 had additional pathogen(s) vs. no pathogen detected using this method.
5. Discussion paragraph 3: There are several studies that have shown upper respiratory illness, lower respiratory tract infection, and influenza like illness in otherwise healthy adults in both inpatient and community settings. It would be more correct to state that this finding contributes to this body of literature rather than stating that PIV4 "may be capable of causing upper respiratory tract infections in otherwise healthy adults within the community setting."

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.