Reviewer's report

Title: The significance of Notch ligand expression in the peripheral blood of children with hand, foot and mouth disease (HFMD)

Version: 1 Date: 22 April 2014

Reviewer: Matthew Schaller

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Minor Essential Revisions
It would be helpful if the authors included the best-fit line in the r squared analysis of correlations they state are positive.

Discretionary Revisions
It may be beneficial to include a statement regarding the regulation of dll1 by type 1 interferon, which was shown in an influenza infection model.

Is it possible to run a PCR to quantify the amount of virus in CSF and correlate this to Dll1/Dll4 expression in blood?

It may also be useful to correlating dll1/dll4 with expression of specific genes known to be important downstream targets of Notch signaling such as CD25 or BCL-2.

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 I have no competing interests