Reviewer’s report

Title: Superior antigen-specific CD4+ T-cell response with AS03-adjuvantation of a trivalent influenza vaccine in a randomised trial of adults aged 65 and older

Version: 3
Date: 7 April 2014

Reviewer: Elena Pariani

Reviewer’s report:

The manuscript entitled “Superior antigen-specific CD4+ T-cell response with AS03-adjuvantation of a trivalent influenza vaccine in a randomised trial of adults aged 65 and older” by Robert B Couch et al. presents the results of a clinical trial aimed at the evaluation of T-cell responses and serological antibody responses to a trivalent inactivated AS03-adjuvanted influenza vaccine in adults aged over 65 years.

The study is clear, well-designed and well-written. The authors work out properly the objectives of the study using appropriate methodologies and statistical methods, and coming to significant results. The conclusions are supported by the data obtained, and add evidence on the positive effect of AS03 adjuvant system particularly in older people.

Minor essential revisions

The following are some comments for the authors’ consideration.

- In the results section of the abstract add p-values in brackets rather than using “superior” or “higher” only.
- Page 6, line 12: Change “0.5ml” to “0.5 ml”
- Page 9, line 24: I would suggest to change “>20-#50mm” to “20-50 mm” and “>50-#100mm” to “50.1-100 mm”. Consider this also for grades reported at page 10, lines 1-2.
- Page 12, line 6: Please specify the reasons why these two subjects did not complete the study.
- Page 17, line 21: Delete “}”
- Page 18, line 15: Report the reference of the study described here

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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