Author's response to reviews

Title: Characterization of extensively drug-resistant Mycobacterium tuberculosis isolates circulating in Siberia

Authors:

Maya A. Dymova (maya.a.rot@gmail.com)
Andrey G. Cherednichenko (bact.nniit@gmail.com)
Olga I. Alkhovik (olgaalkhovik@mail.ru)
Eugeniya A. Khrapov (Khrap_off@ngs.ru)
Tatjana I. Petrenko (tipetrenko@gmail.com)
Maxim L. Filipenko (max@niboch.nsc.ru)

Version: 8
Date: 20 August 2014

Author's response to reviews: see over
We thank all reviewers for a thorough revision of our manuscript. Please find below our response to their comments.

I have noted that Table 2 contains a number of patient identifiers (age, sex, history and region). It is important to maintain as much patient confidentiality as possible so if this table could be modified (e.g. using ‘age ranges’ instead of specific numbers) or individual identifiers removed this would help the assessment process.

Response: Corrected. We removed the exact number of years from Table 2. And we used age ranges there. In the section “Sample description” we added the sentence: “In table 2, we introduced artificially age ranges: the minimum value plus one, two and so on standard deviations, obtain several age ranges (20-30.9 (I); 30.9 - 41.8 (II); 41.8 - 52.7 (III); 52.7 – 63.6 (IV)).

We highlight (blue highlighted text) this changes made when revising the manuscript to make it easier for the Editors to give a prompt decision on manuscript.

Yours faithfully, Dymova Maya.