Author's response to reviews

Title: Differential in vivo expression of mycobacterial antigens in Mycobacterium tuberculosis infected lungs and lymph node tissues

Authors:

Tehmina Mustafa (tehmina.mustafa@cih.uib.no)
Nils Anders Leversen (nilsleversen@fastmail.fm)
Lisbet Sviland (lisbet.sviland@helse-bergen.no)
Harald Gotten Wiker (harald.wiker@k2.uib.no)

Version: 5 Date: 17 August 2014

Author's response to reviews: see over
1. Comment: Gold standard- patients had either pulmonary or lymph node tuberculosis. I would still have expected some tissue confirmation - histology or culture, beyond clinical response. This is in contrast to other forms of Extra Pulm TB where tissue cannot be obtained-eg pericardial, gut disease. I suggest this is included as a (Major) limitation in the manuscript ie inability to confirm TB in some cases.

Response: All the TB lymphadenitis cases had histological confirmation of TB by presence of typical TB necrotic granulomas. In addition these cases had positive clinical response to treatment and positive \textit{M.tuberculosis} complex specific nested-PCR. All the pulmonary cases had plenty of tuberculous bacilli and positive \textit{M.tuberculosis} complex specific PCR. Based on this information it can be said that all these cases are confirmed as TB. This information is included in the manuscript.

2. Comment: Negative controls - the explanatory details clear this query. Ii suggest some of these details are incoorporated into the manuscript - to explain selection and evaluation of controls.
Response: This information is included in the manuscript.

3. Cut offs - again the explanation is adequate and a line may be added to the manuscript Response: This information is included in the manuscript.