Reviewer's report

Title: Evaluation of Capilia TB-Neo for culture confirmation of Mycobacterium tuberculosis complex

Version: 3 Date: 30 October 2013

Reviewer: MARIA ALICE DA SILVA TELLES

Reviewer's report:

Discretionary Revisions:  
The paper evaluates the improved performance and practical limitations of Capilia TB NEO including other two similar immunochromatographic identification tests which is of fundamental importance in public health. This kind of test is very useful as it significantly reduces the time to diagnose TB and exclude the diagnostic of other mycobacteria. It also reduces time consuming work in the laboratory to correctly and easily differentiates M. tuberculosis and NTM. In terms of laboratory diagnostics this test represents an important and useful innovation.

The study was performed with high scientific competence, analyzing carefully the discrepancies and with comprehensive discussion. Congratulations!

My only remark is concerned to lines 150 to 153, as the authors mentioned that 99 reference strains, but then it is said that the 3 methods correctly produced negative results for 3 non-mycobacterial strains. I could not understand why this “three” if in Table 1 is showed the results of 99 strains.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

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.