Reviewer's report

Title: Immune Activation and Microbial Translocation in Liver Disease Progression in HIV/Hepatitis Co-infected Patients: Results from the Icona Foundation Study

Version: 2 Date: 17 January 2014

Reviewer: Victoria Best

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions:
I have nothing to report.

Minor Essential Revisions:
It seems that it may not be possible to include monoinfected control subjects (either HIV mono or HCV mono). In this circumstance, you should understand that HCV infection induces a proinflammatory state similarly to HIV infection. Therefore the abstract statement of "suggesting that the pro-inflammatory status in HIV infection might hasten the course of HCV" cannot and should not be concluded. Your study did not compare the effect of HIV on HCV infection.

Discretionary Revisions: nothing to report

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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.