Reviewer's report

**Title:** An improved microtiter assay for evaluating anti-HIV-1 neutralizing antibodies from sera or plasma

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 14 November 2003

**Reviewer:** Ruengpung Sutthent

**Reviewer's report:**

**General**

The article is well designed to answer the proposed research question. The methods were well controlled with some to clarify:

1. Normal human sera/plasma control on viability of cells
2. HIV positive sera/plasma used in the tested from IDUs, that always consist of inhibitors.
3. Are these infected HIV-1 individuals on any treatment that might affect viability of cells.
4. For end-point neutralization assay by p24 Ag measurement, the normal procedure normally use 10-50 TCID50. What is the % level of inhibition that used for cutoff for protection (50% or 90%)? Why don't use 4 days for p24 AG detection similar to MTT assay.

For discussion part, the authors should mention that more will be used on one replication cycle NT assays that will eliminate prolong time exposure cells to virus and sera.

**Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)**

**Minor Compulsory Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)**

**Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)**

**What next?:** Accept after minor compulsory revisions

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No

**Declaration of competing interests:**

None