Author's response to reviews

Title: Vaccine candidates derived from a novel infectious cDNA clone of an American genotype dengue virus type 2

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Author's response to reviews: see over
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To: Editor
BMC Infectious Diseases

Please find enclosed, the revised electronic submission of “Vaccine candidates derived from a novel infectious cDNA clone of an American genotype dengue virus type 2” by Blaney et al. Thank you and the reviewers for the rapid consideration of our manuscript. We have responded to each of the reviewers’ comments, and made the changes which they requested. We feel the manuscript is now ready for publication. Please note that GenBank accession numbers have not been assigned but they should be by September 13, 2004. The responses to the reviewers’ comments follow.

Sincerely,

Joseph E. Blaney, Jr., Ph.D.
Response to review by Gubler

#1 We have changed the terminology of DHF/DSS and the wild-type dengue viruses throughout the paper. On page 3, para. 1, we have included a sentence to reflect the additional risk factors for DHF/DSS listed by the reviewer.

#2 Page 6, para. 2, we have indicated that the Tonga virus was isolated by inoculation of human serum into mosquitoes.

#3 Page 12, para. 1, we have changed the sentence to say that viruses replicate to 6 logs in SCID-HuH-7 mice, but not necessarily to this level in monkeys. Para. 2, We have indicated that the virus was poorly infectious by the oral route tested and only oral infectivity was tested.

#4 We have shortened the discussion by more than a half page.

#5 Page 19, para. 2 We changed “wide prevalence” of the American DEN-2 genotype to simply “presence” and describe the circulation of DEN1 and DEN3 as “limited”.

#6 Page 20, para 2, We indicated that large epidemics have been associated with viruses of the American genotype

Response to review by Rico-Hesse

Page 12, para 1, We added that the DEN2 NGC strain was not included as a concurrent control

Page 12, para 3, we now indicate that the “same virus stocks” were tested in toxorynchites mosquitoes.