Reviewer's report

Title: Zinc/Copper Imbalance Reflects Immune Dysfunction in Human Leishmaniasis: an ex vivo anc in vitro study

Version: 1 Date: 14 October 2004

Reviewer: ENRICO CILLARI

Reviewer's report:

General
A good manuscript on the role of zinc and copper in leishmaniasis and their possible involvement in Th1/Th2 development

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

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

-1) Wrong use of a term in Background line 3 (through rather than THROUGH)

-2) In method section third paragraph is better to clarify the method used to investigate the influence of trace metals on the ex-vivo cellular immune response. From the test appears that buffy coats were used only from blood donors, whereas they were also used from diseased patients.

-3) Why for studying Th2 the authors analyzed IL-5, rather than IL-4 and IL-10. IL-5 is not particularly modified during infection? Please discuss the choice. Discuss which is the possible reason of the absence of correlation between leishmania-induced TNFα production and Copper or Zinc plasma level and Th1 pattern

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential 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