Reviewer's report

Title: Comparative evidence for a link between Peyer's patch development and susceptibility to transmissible spongiform encephalopathies

Version: 1 Date: 17 October 2005

Reviewer: Walter Bodemer

Reviewer's report:

General
The question posed is well defined and answers were long sought. There are sufficient data given. Replication of the work is limited to institutes that are major players in veterinary and human pathology with their experience. Data are sound and the manuscript adheres to relevant standards. Results, discussion and conclusion(s) are well balanced. The title and abstract convey what has been found. Since most authors seem to be native English speakers writing is acceptable. There are no revisions necessary. The report is unique since animal and human infectious TSE have been assessed side by side. Focusing on the "interface" of prion infection and the organism was most successful. How tissue and cells are involved was a matter of hypotheses and at least some questions as to the cells and tissue involved could be answered, clearly. Looking at the age and developmental status of tissue and cells, especially in the animals, is a major finding. This finding is most relevant since the time point of inoculation leading eventually to disease has been looked at and defined.

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

no comments

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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)

no comments

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

no comments

What next?: Accept without revision

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:
"I declare that I have no competing interests"