Author's response to reviews

Title: Recall of intestinal helminthiasis by HIV-infected South Africans and misinterpretation of egg excretion in worm/HIV co-infection analysis: a questionnaire-based study

Authors:

Vera VJ Adams (vera.arendse@mrc.ac.za)
Miles MB Markus (medsynth@yahoo.co.uk)
Zilungile ZL Kwitshana (zilungile.kwitshana@mrc.ac.za)
Muhammad MA Dhansay (ali.dhansay@mrc.ac.za)
Lize L van der Merwe (lize.van.der.merwe@mrc.ac.za)
Gerhard G Walzl (gwalzl@sun.ac.za)
John JE Fincham (john.fincham@mrc.ac.za)

Version: 4 Date: 21 April 2006

Author's response to reviews:

We have changed the first 2 sentences in the third paragraph of the "Discussion" in order to clearly link the first phase of our research on the possibility of immunological interaction between helminthiasis and HIV/AIDS (as described in "Results") with valid progression into the next phase, in terms of variables to be analysed. The 2 revised sentences now read:

"To ensure logical development of the next phase of our research on possible immunological interaction between helminthiasis and HIV/AIDS, it is necessary to recognise that worm egg excretion status is a secondary variable that cannot be the main basis for analysis. Preliminary local data support this point with regard to Ascaris (which accounted for between 69% and 89% of recalls), as does a lot of published information." ---

We think this revision should finally address the concern of the reviewer who was of the opinion that our article consists of two unlinked parts.

Sincerely

John Fincham