Reviewer’s report

Title: Soluble egg antigen of Schistosoma haematobium induces HCV replication in PBMC’s from patients with chronic HCV infection.

Version: 1 Date: 17 May 2005

Reviewer: Eric Van Marck

Reviewer’s report:

General
This papers contains interesting observations but several clarifications are still needed.

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

1) Please explain why S. haematobium derived SEA was used instead of S. mansoni derived SEA.
2) Detail how this SEA was obtained and specify its major constituents. Discuss which of these constituents might be responsible for the observed results.
3) Give results of control experiments on PBMC proliferation in vitro and on viral replication using another unrelated stimulant than SEA or Phytohaemagglutinin.
4) Provide evidence of a dose-dependent effect of SEA on PBMC proliferation and on viral replication.

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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)

English language should be thoroughly revised.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.