Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 2 Date: 31 October 2005

Reviewer: Eric Van Marck

Reviewer’s report:

General
This referee feels that the questions raised after the first submission have not been adequately dealt with.

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

The authors should give a proper reply to the question why they have chosen to use S. haematobium derived SEA instead of S. mansoni. If SEA, like they claim, does not differ substantially between the two species, they should provide evidence for this statement.
The authors should update their references with respect to the constituents of SEA. The cited paper dates from 1977. There are numerous more recent papers giving details on which constituents are found in SEA.
The question on a dose-dependent effect of SEA on PMBC proliferation and viral replication remains unanswered.

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

Spelling of the species name Schistosma haematobium in the title is incorrect!

-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------
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.