Reviewer's report

Title: Comparison of Two Interferon Gamma Release Assays in the diagnosis of Mycobacterium tuberculosis infection and disease in The Gambia

Version: 2 Date: 4 September 2007

Reviewer: Andrew Vernon

Reviewer's report:

General
I believe that the authors have done a very nice job of responding thoughtfully to my comments. I think the revised paper is really quite good, and merits publication. Although the topic is somewhat specialized, it concerns an issue that is of considerable importance in the field presently, and this is one of the best studies available.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
None

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
Typo in paragraph 6 of Discussion: "Although there ARE some reports of possible boosting..."

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)
The Discussion indicates that the authors believe their results are not affected by boosting due to the earlier TST testing. The basis for this belief is unclear, and the authors cite 3 papers suggesting that such boosting may occur. I would find more convincing a statement that boosting, conversion or reversion could have affected these results.

What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a
statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'