Reviewer's report

Title: Resistance of Leishmania (Leishmania) amazonensis and Leishmania (Viannia) braziliensis to nitric oxide correlates with Tegumentary Leishmaniasis disease state

Version: Date: 19 September 2006

Reviewer: Silvia Uliana

Reviewer's report:

General
I have reviewed the new version of the manuscript. The authors have answered all the points raised in my previous review and I believe the manuscript is clearer now. However, reading this new version, I thought of still another question that needs to be clarified in the final version. Figure 3 shows that the average lesion size for resistant isolates (n=4) is larger than for susceptible isolates (n=10). I think it would be important to know what is the distribution of species in these 14 patients. An even distribution of L. amazonensis and L. braziliensis in both groups (resistant and susceptible) would eliminate the possibility of relating the size of lesion to the causative species.

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

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
Tables 2 and 3 list the values of thymidine incorporation or MTT for each isolate. On each particular table, calculations for the mean and SD are included. Since the data for each isolate cultivated without drug presents a great deal of variation, the comparison of absolute values does not seem very meaningful. The graphs presented on Fig. 1, on the other hand, use adequately the percentages of survival of treated cultures in relation to the untreated control parasites. I suggest removing from Tables 2 and 3 the data for the mean and SD.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential 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.