Reviewer’s report

Title: Nitric oxide production in the exhaled air of patients with pulmonary tuberculosis in relation to HIV co-infection

Version: 1 Date: 30 June 2008

Reviewer: Chun-Hua Wang

Reviewer’s report:

The work of "Nitric oxide production in the exhaled air of patients with pulmonary tuberculosis in relation to HIV co-infection" by Idh et al is interesting after they have included new evidences of IL-12 and different exhaled level of nitric oxide in HIV (-)/TB patients. I think that the authors have adequately answered my request. But, there is one point should be clarified. According to revised version, the authors indicated that there was a significantly higher proportion of patients with FeNO levels above 25 ppb in the HIV-/TB group compared to HIV+/TB patients. Did the authors have analyzed the disease extent on radiograph, nutrition status and bacterial load on sputum between the higher level of FeNO (>25 ppb) and lower level of FeNO (<25 ppb) in patients with HIV-/TB? If there has any difference in these two groups, it may provide more evidence to support that low NO production in local lung could be a risk factor for developing TB.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests.'