Reviewer's report

Title: T-SPOT.TB responses during treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis

Version: 2 Date: 14 January 2009

Reviewer: Charles von Reyn

Reviewer's report:

Major compulsory revisions

The authors have still not acknowledged a critical issue that may have influenced results. The earliest samples, baseline samples, were stored longest and might have had spuriously low results. A caveat is needed. The statement below or a similar one should be added:

We cannot exclude the possibility that frozen samples that were stored longest before testing (i.e., baseline samples) may have been most affected by storage and might have given spuriously low results. This could have diminished our ability to detect a decrease in T spot response with treatment. The effects of prolonged freezing could be studied by dividing samples into two aliquots; one sample could be tested immediately and the other frozen for later testing.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

One small grant for direct research costs from Oxford Immunotec (mfg of T spot) for a study of T spots in M avium lung disease.