Reviewer’s report

Title: Non-Hispanic Whites have higher risk for pulmonary impairment from pulmonary tuberculosis.

Version: 4 Date: 5 November 2011

Reviewer: Gerald H. Mazurek

Reviewer’s report:

The authors have answered my concerns sufficiently with 2 exceptions that are listed below as "Minor Essential Revisions". I identified no "Major Compulsory Revisions" or remaining "Discretionary revisions" that need to be addressed.

Minor Essential Revisions:

1) Lines 119-124: Suggests that pulmonary impairment was defined and graded by the extent of obstruction as measured by FEV1 alone and ignores impairment due to restrictive patterns of impairment. However, the majority of impairment reported had a restrictive pattern. I suspect that the sentence "Impairment was categorized as none, mild (FEV1 values >60% but <80%), moderate (41% to 59%) or severe (FEV1 values <40%) using an interpretive algorithm from the AMA (8,11)" should read "Impairment was categorized as none, mild (if FEV1 or FVC was >60% but <80%), moderate (if FEV1 or FVC was 41% to 59%) or severe (if FEV1 or FVC was <40%) using an interpretive algorithm from the AMA (8,11)".

2) Lines 53, 141, 220, and 221: "time-to-TB diagnosis and treatment" should be changed to “time to beginning TB treatment” to match other references to this concept (e.g. line 217).

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.