Reviewer's report

Title: Air sampling procedures to evaluate microbial contamination: a comparison between active and passive methods in operating theatres

Version: 2 Date: 19 June 2012

Reviewer: Chunchieh Tseng

Reviewer's report:

The quality of this paper has been significantly improved. The authors have made the suggested corrections and revisions. A few suggestions/comments are listed below:

Background:

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1. “This system is applicable when the concentration of microorganisms is not very high…….”

In my opinion, active sampling including impinger and filter can also be applied for collecting bioaerosol with high concentration except by using the impactor.

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2. The most correlated reference is no 26 (Perdelli et al.), the purpose and sampling methods were similar to the current study; I cannot find any related discussions in the background or discussion.

Methods:

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3. “When the room is empty of people, the results of the sampling reflect mainly the performance

of the CCVS…” Since the room is empty, the bacteria concentration should be low. Therefore, the performance of CCVS may not obvious. In my opinion, the concentrations at rest mainly reflect the background concentration, not the performance of CCVS.

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4. “In fact, Perdelli et al., found that…….” According to the comment 2, I suggest moving this paragraph to Background or Discussion for more discussion and comparison.

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:

I declare that I have no competing interests