Reviewer's report

Title: Feasibility of HIV vaccination among rural, high-risk drug users in the United States: A cross-sectional study

Version: 1 Date: 26 April 2014

Reviewer: Michele Andrasik

Reviewer's report:

Please find below my review of the manuscript entitled, "Feasibility of HIV vaccination among rural, high-risk drug users in the United States: A cross-sectional survey.

Overall this is an excellent manuscript which is well written and provides important information on acceptability and potential uptake of a preventive HIV vaccine among rural, high-risk drug users. The methods, statistical analyses and results are clear and the results are an important contribution to the field.

Major Compulsory Revisions

My overall enthusiasm for the paper is dampened by one major oversight that impacts the utility of the results. Initial vaccines to reduce HIV acquisition are likely to demonstrate very modest levels of protective efficacy likely ranging between 30% and at best 50%. Nowhere in the manuscript is this discussed and all questions in the analysis are based on a 90% efficacy level. As this level of protection is extremely unlikely, the fact that such a high number of rural drug users were likely or very likely to accept a 90% effective, preventive HIV vaccine really doesn’t tell us much. This is not even listed as a limitation in the discussion section.

Level of interest: An article of importance 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'