Reviewer’s report

Title: Prevalence of HIV, Herpes Simplex Virus-2, and Syphilis in Male Sex Partners of Pregnant Women in Peru

Version: 2 Date: 23 January 2008

Reviewer: Anne Buve

Reviewer’s report:

Minor Essential Revisions

1. Page 8, second paragraph and Table 1. What is the difference between a "live-in partner" and a "wife"? I was struck by the low % of partners of pregnant women who reported the woman to be their wife compared to "love-in partner". Do couples in Peru usually not marry but live together?

2. Page 9, last sentence of first paragraph. Please be more clear: what do you mean by "consolidation of behavioural risk factors"?

3. Page 10, second sentence, and last sentence of third paragraph. I have some problems with the reasoning behind these statements. There is an essential piece of date missing here: the HSV-2 prevalence among the pregnant women themselves. HSV-2 positive men only pose a risk for congenital herpes if their partner is not infected with HSV-2. In order to assess the risk of herpes for the newborn one needs to know the rate of concordance and discordance for HSV-2 infection among the couples.

4. Page 11, top. There is indeed an issue of representativeness of the male partners. In their reply to my comments they stated that they do not know how many pregnant women attended the services with their partner.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

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'