Reviewer's report

Title: Persistent Chlamydia Pneumoniae serology is related to decline in lung function in women but not in men

Version: 2 Date: 13 May 2010

Reviewer: Ian Clifton

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions
- Nil

Minor essential Revisions
- Would suggest that the last paragraph of the conclusion is changed. It currently reads "In conclusion, our results indicate persistant C pn infections ......."

I feel that this should be changed to state that the results indicate that persisting C pn serology is associated with increased decline in lung function. The authors have demonstrated that persisting IgG serology is associated with greater decline in FEV1, but they have not demonstrated persisting infection. Persisting IgG serology may be due to repeated infections, a persisting infection, or possibly the production of these antibodies for some other reason not related to C pn infection. This study is unable to differentiate between these possibilities and therefore the conclusion would need to be altered.

Discretionary Revisions
- Nil

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.