Reviewer's report

**Title:** The clinical significance of serum and bronchoalveolar lavage inflammatory cytokines in patients at risk for ARDS

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 7 June 2004

**Reviewer:** Robert Strieter

**Reviewer's report:**

The manuscript by Bouros and associates attempt to describe the clinical significance of serum and bronchoalveolar lavage inflammatory cytokines in patients at risk for ARDS. This is another paper in a long series of published papers that have examined the presence of cytokines in this patient population. In fact, the authors justify this study by stating that other studies have found some degree of controversy. Their results are of interest and warrant publication. However, I would like for them to extend their discussion as to what they think the biology of their findings mean to development of ARDS and mortality in ARDS.

**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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

None