Reviewer's report

Title: Activation of inflammatory responses in human U937 macrophages by particulate matter collected from dairy farms

Version: 2 Date: 29 January 2012

Reviewer: Inge Wouters

Reviewer's report:

The changes in the paper by Dr Vogel et al are adequate, and most of my comments have been properly addressed. Some lines in the introduction might be improved and need references.

Minor essential comments:
1. The last paragraph on page 3 / beginning page 4 of the introduction is not very well written and unclear. It misses references and flow.
2. The statement that occupational exposure introduces ODTS does not have a reference.
2. Similarly for the statement that only in workers without a farming childhood exposure protects against sensitization.
3. Reference 7 is mentioned as to refer to occupational exposures which is not true, this reference includes indoor home exposures.. Reference should be changed
4. Page 4. first paragraph. "Interestingly children who grew up on a farm showed no effect modification except for allergic sensitization" What effect modification is ment? Which study does this refer to?
5. The authors should adress the differences between asthma and sensitisation.

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:

No competing interests