Reviewer's report

Title: Viruses and chronic pulmonary disease: The role of immune modulation

Version: 2 Date: 12 December 2011

Reviewer: Phil Hansbro

Reviewer's report:

General comments

Arun et al., present a timely, comprehensive and well written review of the role of viruses in chronic pulmonary disease. These authors are authorities in the field and this review will be valuable for both early career researchers and experts in this field. My comments are designed to improve the review.

Major comments

The review focuses mainly on the role of viral infections in exacerbations or in established chronic diseases. Therefore I suggest changing the title to “Viruses in chronic...”. Having said that I think a brief discussion of the known roles of viruses in the induction of chronic respiratory diseases, especially asthma with reference to recent reviews (e.g. Hansbro Pharmacol Ther 2008) would be warranted.

A discussion of the potential role of viruses, particularly more virulent strains, to suppressing anti-viral responses themselves could be incorporated.

Numerous abbreviations need attention. Abbreviations should be defined after the first mentioned and then used throughout the remained of the text (e.g. RV, IFN, IL, PIV etc).

The potential role of bacteria (e.g. Chlamydia, Haemophilus) in asthma exacerbations could also be mentioned.

Page 8: The IFN-lambda discussion occurs in the middle of the IFN-beta discussion and would be better at the end.

Minor comments

Page 3: Change “diseases is seen in asthma and typically” to “diseases in asthma and”

Page 4: insert comma before “respectively” and delete “reported as”

Page 5: ref 11 is not recent, change “Following discovery of the central role of “ to “Following the discovery of the role of “, change “greater” to “more severe”

Page 6: change “Most” to “Much”
Page 7: Figure 1 compares normal with asthma and should be referenced at the end of the paragraph.

Page 8: Change “replication is” to “replication was”

Page 9 line 3: Insert “or phenotype” after “severity”, 2nd para: change “good” to “strong”

Page 10: Change “non-non’” to “non, change “represent a specific asthma phenotype” to “are more prevalent in specific asthma phenotypes”

Page 15: Change “fucntion” to “function”