Reviewer's report

Title: Novel therapeutic agents in clinical development for SLE

Version: 1 Date: 8 January 2013

Reviewer: Nora Singer

Reviewer's report:

Minor essential revisions
This is a nice review of biologicals in SLE however some details about the BAFF/Blys and APRIL molecules and the role of dimerization of these molecules in that system might give the reader insight into just how complex the system is. Also data now exists suggesting the absence of TACI may be linked to poor immune responses in newborns to polysaccharides, some comment on potential mechanisms of adverse effects on host immunity should be considered. In addition, the atacicept experience in lupus nephritis has been published and should be cited Ginzler et al. Arthritis Res Ther. 2012 Feb 7;14(1):R33. doi: 10.1186/ar3738.

Discretionary revisions
If space permits a figure of B-cell development with cell surface markers and a diagram of the B-cell growth factors with there receptors may be of value.

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
Non financial interests- I am an author on the publication for which I have asked be cited rather than just citing the the report of a terminated clinical trial on the clinical trials.gov site.