Reviewer's report

Title: Rapid Diagnostics of Tuberculosis and Drug Resistance in the Industrialized World: Clinical and Public Health Benefits and Barriers to Implementation

Version: 2 Date: 11 June 2013

Reviewer: Neil Schluger

Reviewer's report:

The paper by Drobniewski and colleagues is a well-written and useful review of the public health aspects of several new technologies used to diagnose (mainly) active tuberculosis and to detect drug resistance. The focus on the public health impact, and cost, of these technologies is most welcome.

Major compulsory revisions:

My major, and only real substantive criticism relates to the inclusion of data from a study in Russia that has not previously been published. Although I understand the rationale behind including these data, it would be most unusual to include such data in a paper of this sort. Without an opportunity to assess the complete methodology and results, as in a usual original manuscript, it is difficult to fully assess these data. I would be in favor of removing them.

Minor essential revisions:

As the authors have done such a good job in reviewing the relevant literature, it would be helpful perhaps to have a table in the paper listing, from the authors' perspective, major unresolved questions in the literature that relate to the use of these new technologies. Such a table could be helpful in setting a research agenda in this area.

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.