Author's response to reviews

Title: Transcriptional profiling of mycobacterial antigen-induced responses in infants vaccinated with BCG at birth

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Author's response to reviews:

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find attached our manuscript entitled “Transcriptional profiling of mycobacterial antigen-induced responses in infants vaccinated with BCG at birth” for your consideration as an article in BMC Infectious Diseases.

We now have a number of new TB vaccines in clinical trials that act by boosting the immune response to previous BCG vaccination. The first phase IIb trial of a new TB vaccine will take place in infants in South Africa. However, understanding the infant immune response to a new TB vaccine will be difficult as the infant response to BCG vaccination has been little studied.

We have used microarray analysis to determine gene expression profiles of BCG vaccinated infant PBMC following ex vivo stimulation with BCG or PPD. Our study is the first investigation of mycobacteria-induced gene expression in such a young infant population. We have a number of findings that would be of interest to an infectious disease audience including evidence for BCG generation of a type 1 macrophage response.

All authors have seen and approved the content of this article and have made a significant contribution to the work. The material submitted for publication has not been previously reported and is not under consideration for publication elsewhere.

Yours Sincerely

Willem Hanekom