Reviewer’s report

Title: Predictors and outcomes of Mycobacterium tuberculosis bacteremia among patients with HIV and tuberculosis co-infection enrolled in the ACTG A5221 STRIDE study

Version: 2 Date: 2 November 2014

Reviewer: Anushka Naidoo

Reviewer’s report:

There are no major compulsory revisions

Minor essential revisions:

Authors to clarify under the Methods section (first paragraph) : at sites where mycobacterial blood culture were done- did all participants have procedure?

Statistical review requested above for the following reason:

The power to detect a difference between the groups is very low at 12% (as stated based on small sample size)- but based on the very small number of patients with MTB bacteremia are the conclusions drawn sound?

Discretionary revisions:

Conclusions section to be separated into Discussion and Conclusion?

Overall concise and well written paper.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I have no competing interests, however I will place on record that I was part of the A5221 site study staff in SA.