Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Correlates of the molecular vaginal microbiota composition of African women

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 3 November 2014

**Reviewer:** Jimmy Twin

**Reviewer’s report:**

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. It would be of interest to show any correlation between the STIs detected and individual bacterial OTUs identified (both with and without taking into account community clustering) to show any potential protective effects particular bacteria and associated communities may provide, and whether other community types or bacteria are positively associated with STIs.

2. Are there any bacteria commonly found in vaginal communities that were not included in this microarray detection method?

3. How many bacterial genera were detected and therefore used in Shannon index calculations? Were only classified bacterial genera used in this analysis and could the results be biased by the genera detected?

Minor Essential Revisions

1. I would include Figure 2 in the manuscript (not supplemental) as much of the analysis is based upon these groupings.

**Level of interest:** An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

**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