Author's response to reviews

Title: Multiple-locus variable-number tandem-repeat analysis (MLVA) genotyping of human Brucella isolates in Malaysia

Authors:

Bee Yong Tay (tayby@imr.gov.my)
Norazah Ahmad (norazah@imr.gov.my)
Rohaidah Hashim (rohaidah@imr.gov.my)
Jama'ayah M Zahidi (jama@imr.gov.my)
Kwai Lin Thong (thongkl@um.edu.my)
Xiu Pei Koh (xp_527@yahoo.com)
Azura M Noor (azura.imr@gmail.com)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
31 March 2015

Dear Dr Higgins,

Re: Manuscript reference No. MS: 1668810903146069

Please find attached a revised version of our manuscript “Multiple-locus variable-number tandem-repeat analysis (MLVA) genotyping of human Brucella isolates in Malaysia”, which we would like to resubmit for publication as a Research Article in BMC Infectious Diseases.

Your comments were highly insightful and enabled us to greatly improve the quality of our manuscript. In the following page is our response to each of the comments.

We hope that the revisions in the manuscript and our accompanying responses will be sufficient to make our manuscript suitable for publication in BMC Infectious Diseases.

We shall look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Bee Yong Tay
Address: Bacteriology Unit, Institute for Medical Research, Jalan Pahang, 50588 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Ph: +60326162544
Fax: +60326919716
E-mail: tayby@imr.gov.my
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Comments by Editor</th>
<th>Responses</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Move the ethics statement to the Methods section</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. Line 108-110 The ethics statement is moved to the methods section.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Were the samples taken as part of standard care? Did the patients give consent?</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. The samples were part of primary care and were obtained for investigation of suspected brucellosis. Therefore consent was not required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Did they have the permission to use the map that forms figure 3?</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. Line 199, 458-459, 550-551 According to the website, the maps are free for any use with the condition that the exact URL where the original map comes from must be mentioned. Therefore, we have inserted a reference no. 35 to the title of Figure 3. The map which we are using in the manuscript is downloaded from the website, modified and inserted names of states and legends.</td>
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<td>4. Upload a clean version of the manuscript without strike-through text</td>
<td>All strike-through text are deleted and a clean version of the manuscript is uploaded. We would like to inform the editors that the references in the text are also revised accordingly after deletion of strike-through text.</td>
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