Author's response to reviews

Title: Monocyte unresponsiveness and impaired IL1beta, TNFalpha and IL7 production are associated with a poor outcome in Malawian adults with pulmonary tuberculosis

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,

Thank-you for your email indicating several necessary changes to the manuscript. My point-by-point response is as follows:

1) Added to the statistical methods section (Lines 10-13 on page 6) I have indicated the analyses performed and the correction for multiple comparisons applied to the cytokine data. Lines 15-16 on Page 7 indicate the Supplementary Table which details the median, IQR and p value for all analyses performed. This Supplementary Table has been uploaded as a separate file. Furthermore, I have removed the word ‘significant’ when discussing the cytokine data presented in this paper, but instead have referred to trends. These changes can be found in the abstract and throughout the results and discussion sections. The limitations section clearly indicates that further work is needed and the conclusions include a recommendation to validate these findings prospectively in a larger cohort of TB patients.

2) The Acknowledgements section now contains details on my funding source, and thanks the nurses and TB officers who assisted with patient recruitment. Those involved are happy to be acknowledged in this paper.

I hope you are now able to proceed with peer review.

Yours sincerely,