Author’s response to reviews

Title: Evaluation of Mycobacterium tuberculosis viability in OMNIgene-SPUTUM reagent upon multi-day transport at ambient temperature

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Version: 2 Date: 18 Sep 2017

Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed our revised version of the manuscript “Evaluation of Mycobacterium tuberculosis viability in OMNIgene-SPUTUM reagent upon multi-day transport at ambient temperature” by Tagliani et al and the point by point reply to the comments made.

1. Please include a statement on consent to participate in the “Ethics approval and consent to participate” section of the Declarations.

If consent was not required, please provide details of why this was waivered and the institution/committee that approved the waiver (if applicable) OR state any national guidelines which waiever the need for consent.

The following sentence has been added to the Ethics approval and consent to participate section: “The Bioethics Committee did not consider necessary to have an informed consent signed
because data were provided anonymized and the normal diagnostic routine not disrupted. All patients diagnosed with TB and drug-resistant TB received appropriate treatment.”

2. Thank you for providing a statement regarding the Availability of data and materials. However, we cannot currently accept the information provided as it does not meet our editorial policies (see http://www.biomedcentral.com/getpublished/editorial-policies#DataandMaterialRelease).

Submission of a manuscript to a BioMed Central journal implies that materials described in the manuscript, including all relevant raw data, will be freely available to any scientist wishing to use them for non-commercial purposes, without breaching participant confidentiality.

Please detail where the raw data supporting your findings can be found (including information found in any supplementary files). If the raw data is publicly available or can be requested, please state that this is the case, and where the data can be found/requested from. Alternatively, if you do not wish to/cannot share your data, please state (in the ‘Availability of data and Materials’ section) that data will not be shared, and state the reason.

The following sentence has been added to the Availability of data and material section: “The dataset used during the current study is available from the corresponding author on reasonable request”.

3. Please add an "Abbreviations" section to the Declarations.

If abbreviations are used in the text they should be defined in the text at first use, and a list of abbreviations should be provided in the Declarations.

The list of abbreviations has been added in the Declaration section.
4. Please provide figure titles/legends under a separate heading of 'Figure Legends' after the References. If Figure titles/legends are within the main text of the manuscript, please move them. Figure files should contain only the image/graphic, as well as any associated keys/annotations. If titles/legends are present within the figure files, please remove them.

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5. At this stage, please upload your manuscript as a single, final, clean version that does not contain any tracked changes, comments, highlights, strikethroughs or text in different colours. All relevant tables/figures/additional files should also be clean versions. Figures (and additional files) should remain uploaded as separate files.

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