Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: INFD-D-17-00134R1 - GENOTYPING AND DRUG SUSCEPTIBILITY TESTING OF MYCOBACTERIAL ISOLATES FROM POPULATION-BASED TUBERCULOSIS PREVALENCE SURVEY IN GHANA

Thank you very much for forwarding to us reviewers’ comments on the above-titled manuscript. The necessary modifications have been effected in the text and we trust the article will be considered for publication by the Editorial Committee.

Below are responses to the comments.
Reviewer 2 (Didi Bang)

Comments: The authors have taken into account all the reviewers concerns

Discussion line 229. Eleven out of the 165 (6.7%) MTBC isolates were resistant to INH and RIF, a potential threat to public health …. To ease reading I suggest to include "and thus met the definitions of MDR-TB" in the sentence.

Response

The phrase "and thus met the definitions of MDR-TB" has been included in the main text (Discussion line 219, page 10) as suggested and also the definition of MDR at results line 170, page 8.

Line 248: It would have improved the manuscript to have the sequencing results of the 76 NTM that could not be identified by the kit. It was a rather large number that were not identified by the HAIN kit. The authors plan to sequence those unidentified species, so as to provide an explanation for the finding and could be included in the manuscript.

Response

As planned, the unidentified NTM species will be sequenced when funds are available and findings published in the near future. That notwithstanding, we think the HAIN kit was able to identify among others the most pathogenic NTMs (M. avium complex and M. abscessus complex). Therefore the last sentence in the limitation section has been revised. (Discussion line 238-239, page 11).

I was unable to assess the figures.
Response

All figures representing corresponding results from the main text have been uploaded as single files.

The authors are standing by for any more clarification.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

PROF. KENNEDY KWASI ADDO

CORRESPONDING AUTHOR