Reviewer’s report

Title: Pleural IFN-γ release assay combined with biomarkers distinguished effectively tuberculosis from malignant pleural effusion

Version: 0 Date: 21 Oct 2018

Reviewer: Beenu Joshi

Reviewer’s report:

Manuscript by Tang et al is an interesting peace of work Since Tuberculous pleural effusion is difficult to diagnose authors have made an effort to find our if IFN gamma detection could help in the diagnosis of TPE. I have following issues

1. As reported by the authors IFN detection in TPE has already been reported Ref No. 12 and 14. Similar to their report study by Liao et al (Ref No.14) have already investigated IFN gamma against ESAT-6 and peptide and have already reported its utility in TPE and it could distinguish TPE with MPE. My query is what new findings authors are trying to contribute through their study.

2. English need to be checked e.g line no.53 ( ) diseases are diagnosed multiple tests.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

**Declaration of competing interests**
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?
2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?
3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?
4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?
5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?
6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

No, I declare that I have no competing interests

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license ([http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/](http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/)). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal