Reviewer’s report

Title: A survey of fungal microbiota in airways of healthy volunteer subjects from Puglia (Apulia), Italy

Version: 0 Date: 16 Oct 2017

Reviewer: Nandini Shetty

Reviewer's report:

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1. The authors should not use the term colonised unless the fungi were seen to have germinated and therefore are growing in the respiratory tract which is unlikely. The term contaminated would be more accurate to reflect the presence of fungal spores in the lungs. As we all inhale as many as a thousand spores per day these results would not be surprising. The authors should take care with using colonisation and contamination interchangeably.

2. How closely do these results reflect the normal air flora present in the ambient air at the time of sampling? All of the species documented would be part of normal air flora and may just have been inhaled on the way to the clinic.

3. In the three patients with concomitant lung disease (COPD and asthma) were respiratory samples examined for the presence of fungal hyphae?

Overall this study is of limited interest and the authors have already described the longitudinal studies that would make their findings more interesting.
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

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

No

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

No

**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.

Not relevant to this manuscript

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

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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