Reviewer’s report

Title: Severe disease in children a measure of tuberculosis transmission demonstrates that Mycobacterium tuberculosis lineages circulating in peri-urban Kampala transmit equally

Version: 2 Date: 20 March 2015

Reviewer: Laura Rindi

Reviewer’s report:

In the present paper the Authors have evaluated the transmission mechanism of TB in Uganda by an investigation study using children. They have shown that MTB Uganda family is the main cause of TB in children and that the MTBC lineages did not differ in their transmissibility. The aim of the study is well defined but the manuscript, especially in the discussion section, lacks of clearness and some parts are extremely confusing and difficult to follow. Data are interesting and will add additional information to the existing scientific literature on this topic. However, before publication some revisions are required, as follows:

Major Comments:
- To better understand the transmissibility of the MTBC lineages, I strongly suggest authors to evaluate the genetic diversity among isolates by MIRU-VNTR analysis, a highly discriminative typing method that has been extensively used in molecular epidemiological surveys.
- The authors should make an effort of a revision discussion section.
- The paper needs to be revised by an English-mother-language scientist.

Minor Comments:
- Figure 1 is not really needed and should be deleted.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests