Reviewer’s report

Title: High prevalence of tuberculosis among university students in Northwest Ethiopia: A retrospective study

Version: 2 Date: 14 August 2014

Reviewer: Juliet Sekandi

Reviewer’s report:

Major compulsory Revision

1) In the Abstract; Methods: Define what the primary outcome was, i.e. All TB cases diagnosed by smear, culture or Chest X-ray. Result section, state the total population of over the study period so that the reader can have an idea of what the denominator when measuring prevalence will be study sample i.e. 189 before providing the proportions.

2) It is not clear what the state higher prevalence of TB 1830 vs 735.6 and 993.9 vs 659 per 100000, in the humanities than medical campus means, need to specify what the above numbers are comparing.

3) Conclusion needs to be put in context: Higher prevalence of TB….. relative to?? What was the basis to judge magnitude of poor outcomes, in this study its only about 7%, is it much lower at the national level or in other universities?

4) Discussion: Pg 11 Cut paragraph into two to make it easy for the readers, supporting literature is needed on Pg 11 to back low level of knowledge and attitude, poor infection control and occupation exposure as the possible explanations for the high prevalence in CMHS.

5) The discussion is too narrow in scope; authors should provide a broader context by drawing comparison with what has been found in other university or similar congregate settings.

6) Pg 12, 2nd paragraph most of what is presented are results not discussion so it could be cut out.

7) The strengths and limitations of the study should be clearly stated.

8) General comment: in the discussion, the paper should take on a broad public health context if it is to be published in this journal by contrasting what the study found and what is already known about such populations like University students.

9) Discussing in more detail about what the specific role of contact investigation and testing new students as well as periodic test for Latent TB infection would be in order to prevent further spread of TB in setting like a university would certainly enrich the paper and make it align with the common goal of TB control.

Minor Essential Revisions

10) Include recommendations that point to prevention of TB disease

Discretionary Revisions:
11) Information in Table 1 and 3 could be merged and TB prevalence on each campus calculated using the actual totals of students enrolled.

12) Table 2 and 4 could also be merged or information could be presented in a figure such as a bar graph.

13) Table 5 can be sized down to have less columns, merge TC and C since the numbers are really small and new column be named as treatment completion and cure or labeled treatment success

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

'I declare that I have no competing interests'