Reviewer's report

Title: Sulphadoxine-pyrimethamine plus azithromycin for the prevention of low birthweight in Papua New Guinea: a randomised controlled trial.

Version: 1 Date: 20 November 2014

Reviewer: Jonathan Juliano

Reviewer's report:

In this report, Unger et al. report on the use of SP/AZ as IPTp in Papua New Guinea. This is the first randomized controlled study of IPTp outside of Africa and the first that addresses the issue in a region where Plasmodium falciparum and Plasmodium vivax are both endemic. This is a well written manuscript, the data is well analyzed and it is clearly a very important advance for malaria research. This manuscript will have high impact on public health policy.

There are several shortcomings in the study including: 1) the low rate of vivax infections, 2) the use of a control arm that was modified from standard of care at the start of trial and is different than current standard of care in PNG, 3) the higher rate of malaria at presentation in people who did not complete the study, and 4) the fact that only just over 70% of people end up with birth weights, the primary outcome. However, these shortcoming do not detract from the implications of the research and are adequately addressed in the discussion section. I have no major recommendations for revisions.

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.