Reviewer’s report

Title: Modulation of innate immune responses at birth by prenatal malaria exposure and association with malaria risk during the first year of life

Version: 2 Date: 27 Aug 2018

Reviewer: Prasanna Jagannathan

Reviewer's report:

In this revised manuscript, Natama and colleagues address many of the issues raised in the previous review.

In response to the prior round of review, the discussion has been edited and is clearer. However, though this reviewer continues to be concerned that the discussion remains a bit too long and could benefit from some additional organizational changes to allow the authors' main points to come through more clearly.

Some suggestions below:

Discussion paragraph 2: The paragraph leads with the following, "To our knowledge, this study reports for the first time the effect of these categories of PME on TLR-mediated innate immune responses, as previous studies have focused on the overall effect of PM and/or other types of PME on PRR-mediated cytokines responses." Suggest that the authors move the first sentence of the next paragraph (line 416) to follow: "It has been previously shown that malaria pigment in the placenta is associated with maturation of cord blood myeloid and plasmocytoid DCs …. which may explain why …". Then, the authors could follow with the sentences regarding cellular admixture or "innate immune memory" as potential explanations. The authors could then remove the remainder of paragraph 3 (not sure this adds a lot, especially the last sentence of paragraph 3 (line 426-430).

Discussion Paragraph 4 should be shortened. The last sentence (line 455-459) is an excellent summary.

Discussion paragraph 6 (line 472-506): also too long, would condense.

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

Yes
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