Author’s response to reviews

Title: Antibody responses to merozoite antigens after natural Plasmodium falciparum infection: kinetics and longevity in absence of re-exposure

Authors:

Victor Yman (victor.yman@ki.se)
Michael White (michael.white@pasteur.fr)
Muhammad Asghar (asghar.muhammad@ki.se)
Christopher Sundling (christopher.sundling@ki.se)
Klara Sondén (klara.sonden@ki.se)
Simon Draper (simon.draper@ndm.ox.ac.uk)
Faith Osier (fosier@kemri-wellcome.org)
Anna Färnert (anna.farnert@ki.se)

Version: 2 Date: 21 Nov 2018

Author’s response to reviews:

Reviewer comment: In the figure caption it should be mentioned that the antibody levels are displayed relative to the collection of the first sample.

Author reply: This information has been added to all relevant figure captions, i.e. Figure 2 (lines 820-821), Figure 3 (line 827), Figure 4 (lines 841-842), and Figure 5 (lines 855-856).

Reviewer comment: Also the credible intervals for the estimated values of tau_0 in Table S1 include negative values and clearly there is difficult in estimating this parameter from the data based also on the width of the intervals and the negative values. How we can interpret the negative values of tau_0 shown in the table? Some explanation of this limitation needs to be provided.

Author reply: The negative values of tau_0 correspond to the situation where the rise in antibody levels occurs after the first presentation to hospital. The width of the credible intervals represents the substantial level of uncertainty in estimating this parameter. As suggested by the reviewer, an explanation of this has been added to the “parameter descriptions” within Table S1.