Reviewer's report

Title: INA-RESPOND: A Multi-center Clinical Research Network in Indonesia

Version: 1 Date: 10 March 2015

Reviewer: MIGUEL ANGEL GONZALEZ

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INA-RESPOND: A MULTI-CENTER CLINICAL RESEARCH NETWORK IN INDONESIA

General comments

The paper describes a new network to support infectious disease research in Indonesia in collaboration with the NIAID in the US. While this is clearly a laudable effort for the country, the paper presents only the most general aspects of the collaboration. The paper does not address the challenges faced by the network to fulfil its mission in the context of health research policy in the country. It would be important to identify those features of the collaboration that were designed specifically to meet the challenges.

The network could be more usefully assessed once research projects are finalized as to evaluate the effectiveness at various interfaces, such as priority setting, funding, research collaboration and translation of results into policy and practice.

Specific comments

The introduction could make reference to the health research policy in the country, including its governance and administration and current funding. What is the importance of INA-Respond in financial and human resource terms?

p. 4. The authors could also mention the threat of chronic diseases as a valid justification for internal and international networking.


p. 8. It would be of interest to describe in greater detail the priority setting methods used by INA-Respond, and how they are addressing the challenges faced in the allocation of scarce research and health resources. Furthermore, the guidelines to assess relevance to priorities within research proposals could be described.
Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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