

## **Reviewer's report**

**Title:** Association of LEC and tnpA Helicobacter pylori genes with gastric cancer in a Brazilian population

**Version:** 2 **Date:** 4 November 2009

**Reviewer:** Mónica Oleastro

### **Reviewer's report:**

Major Compulsory revisions

- 1) The description of the histological type of the gastric cancer, which appears in the abstract, should also appear in the central body of the manuscript, near the patients' description.
- 2) The gene coding for the BabA adhesion is *babA*. On the other hand, *babA2* is an allele of *babA* which was only found in a specific *H. pylori* strain (CCUG17875). Thus, the term *babA2* should be replaced by *babA*.
- 3) The author's should clarify if there was any difference in the distribution of the bacterial virulence factors among the two histological groups of gastric cancer.
- 4) Since the gender distribution between the gastric cancer group and the gastritis group was markedly different, an analysis of the association of the bacterial virulence factors with disease by gender should be performed.

Minor Essential Revisions

- 5) The definition "left end of *cagII* region" should appear in the central body of the manuscript.
- 6) The names of the genes should be fully written in italic.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**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.