SDI FINAL EVALUATION FORM 1.1

PART 1:

Journal Name:	International Journal of TROPICAL DISEASE & Health
Manuscript Number:	**MS: 2012 IJTDH 2806**
Title of the Manuscript:	**Potential factors responsible for the development of *Plasmodium falciparum* and *Plasmodium vivax* resistance to anti-malarial drugs in some parts of India**

PART 2:

FINAL EVALUATOR'S comments on revised paper (if any)	**Authors' response to final evaluator's comments**
The author is valiant in trying to deliver an important message to the Indian government, the pharmaceutical industry and those involved in the treatment of patients with malaria. Though the manuscript is improved in terms of content and overall structure of the arguments presented, this reviewer still feels that several aspects need to be addressed before it is suitable for publication. Indeed, the main "problem" is introduced as the emergence of resistance to CQ in India and therefore, the current recommended first line treatment for Pf (and Pv? Unclear from manuscript) since 2010 has been the combination of artesunate with SP. In fact, resistance to all anti-malarial treatments has been documented and combination treatment with artemisinins are the last bastion of effective treatment for malaria. So, the issue at hand is the development of resistance to this last class of drugs (which seems to be occurring already in SE Asia) and thus, it is the monitoring of the development of resistance to the current first line treatment of malaria in India that should be advocated yet this is not mentioned or addressed in this manuscript at all. In addition, on the subject of poor quality drugs, the distinction should be made of under dosing due to the use of counterfeit, substandard or degraded drugs versus under dosing due to incorrect treatment within the health care sector (either sold inadequate dose by pharmacy for self treatment or treated inadequately by doctor). These are two separate issues that stem from separate origins and that require separate solutions/responses. Finally, this commentary remains poorly written in terms of grammar and syntax and needs substantial editing for correct English (some of which, but certainly not all, has been mentioned below in "minor comments") to reach publication standard. **Minor comments:** t/o manuscript: the term "under dose treatment" is slightly awkward. Suggest "inadequate treatment" or "under dosing of anti-malarial treatment" or something similar. Third sentence of abstract: "Poor drug quality and quantity of anti-malarials..." do you mean to say that there are not enough (or too many?) anti-malarials available in India? Last sentence abstract: suggest "Improvement in quality control in the production and distribution of anti-malarial drugs in India, combined with informed and enforced national guidance on the treatment of malaria, will help to combat the emergence of resistance to artemisinins." Second sentence in main paper: why are only 85% of populations in endemic areas at risk?	

Wouldn't 100% of people in endemic regions be at risk? Third sentence: delete "principally"... in conjuction with "mainly" it is a tautology. Third paragraph, middle sentence: suggest "This has led to deliberate counterfeiting, substandard production and inappropriate or incorrect storage of anti-malarials, resulting in degradation and subsequently a reduction of therapeutic efficacy." 4th paragraph: "PHC" used and not defined. 4th paragraph: what does "perusing legal action" mean and how does it contribute to the manufacture of "spurious drugs"? Penultimate paragraph: do you mean that the domestic pharmaceutical industry is projected to grow (suggest delete "annually") due to "rising income, INCREASED health insurance coverage, government efforts TO IMPROVE PUBLIC HEALTH, ... and a GROWING ageing population"? as for "lifestyle changes"... it is not clear what sort of lifestyle changes are occurring that contribute to growth of the pharmaceutical industry. Penultimate paragraph: Study in district Jodhpur mentioned, by reference 15 (white et al) cited. Penultimate paragraph, last sentence: you do not need to cite this reference. I merely mentioned it because it is relevant to the subject of this commentary and I thought it might be helpful/useful for the author. If you choose to include this citation, 3rd paragraph, first sentence is probably a better place to reference it.	

Reviewer Details:

Name:	**Sue Lee**
Department, University & Country	**Mahidol-Oxford Tropical Medicine Research Unit (MORU)** **Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University** **THAILAND**