**Evaluation of cytokine responses against novel *Mtb* antigens as diagnostic markers for TB disease**

Dolapo O. Awoniyia, Andrea Teucherta, Jayne S. Sutherlandb, Harriet Mayanja-Kizzac, Rawleigh Howed, Adane Mihretd, Andre G. Loxtona, Jacob Sheehamae, Desta Kassaf, Amelia C. Cramping,h, Hazel M. Dockrellh, Martin Kiddi, Ida Rosenkrandsj, Annemieke Gelukk, Tom HM Ottenhoffk, PLAM Corstjensl , Novel N. Chegoua, Gerhard Walzla and the AE-TBC consortium

**Affiliations:** aDivision of Molecular Biology and Human Genetics, Department of Biomedical Sciences, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Stellenbosch University, Tygerberg 7505, Cape Town, South Africa, bMedical Research Council Unit, Fajara, The Gambia, cDepartment of Medicine, Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda, dArmauer Hansen Research Institute, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, eUniversity of Namibia Faculty of Health Sciences, School of Medicine, Namibia, fEthiopian Health and Nutrition Research Institute, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, gKaronga Prevention Study, Chilumba, Malawi, hLondon School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, London, UK, iCentre for Statistical Analysis, Stellenbosch University, South Africa, jStatens Serum Institut, Copenhagen, Denmark, kDepartment of Infectious Diseases, Leiden University Medical Centre, Leiden, The Netherlands. lDepartment of Molecular Cell Biology, Leiden University Medical Centre, Leiden, The Netherlands.

**Running title:** Cytokine responses as antigen-specific markers for TB diagnosis

**Key words:** Biosignature, host markers, antigen

**Correspondence:**

Division of Molecular Biology and Human Genetics,

Department of Biomedical Sciences, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences,

Stellenbosch University, P. O. Box 19063, Francie van Zijl drive,

Tygerberg 7505, South Africa.

Tel: +27 21 938 9158, Fax: +27 21 938 9863

Email: [gwalzl@sun.ac.za](mailto:gwalzl@sun.ac.za)