



SDI Review Form 1.6

Journal Name:	<u>International Journal of TROPICAL DISEASE & Health</u>
Manuscript Number:	Ms_IJTDH_32823
Title of the Manuscript:	Epidemiological Trend of Lassa Fever and Insight for the Control of Future Outbreaks in Nigeria
Type of the Article	Review paper

General guideline for Peer Review process:

This journal's peer review policy states that **NO** manuscript should be rejected only on the basis of '**lack of Novelty**', provided the manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound.

To know the complete guideline for Peer Review process, reviewers are requested to visit this link:

(<http://www.sciencedomain.org/page.php?id=sdi-general-editorial-policy#Peer-Review-Guideline>)



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PART 1: Review Comments

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment <i>(if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)</i>
<u>Compulsory</u> REVISION comments	The section "Biology of the Virus" could incorporate a better and more detailed description of the arenavirus life cycle, including cell entry, gene expression and RNA replication, assembly and budding. The incorporation of a schematic of the LASV genome organization and gene products would be helpful for those interested in LF but with limited experience in the field of molecular virology. A basic understanding of LASV molecular biology is of critical importance to understand and assess existing diagnostic tools. It would be helpful if the authors could provide a more detailed comparison, and pros and cons, of the different methods currently being used for diagnostic of LASV infection, as well as to provide some suggestions in terms of possible ways to implement robust protocols that could be used to ensure accuracy and reproducibility. Likewise, the section "Vaccine" would benefit from the incorporation of more detailed information about the current efforts to develop LASV vaccines, and provide some insights about the most relevant vaccination strategies to accommodate the specific circumstances present in the LASV endemic regions in Nigeria. As indicated by the authors it seems that a significant number of individuals infected with LASV may develop only mild, or none, clinical symptoms. It would be helpful to discuss the possible contribution of LASV genetic diversity, as well as genetic differences among	This has been fully addressed. See lines 76-138 Already taken care of. See lines 337-375, 377-389 This has been corrected. See lines 391-399

	infected individuals, to the outcome of LASV infection. Particularly relevant would be the incorporation of a brief comment related to genetic data in support of SNPs within the LARGE gene among people living within LASV endemic regions and susceptibility or resistance to LASV. Another aspect of great interest that needs additional discussion relates to the apparent increased fatality rate observed in the most recent outbreak of LF in Nigeria. It would be very informative to discuss the different possibilities that could account for this observation and its implications for future outbreaks. I am not sure whether the title accurately captures the content of the review, as in its present form the review contains limited amount of information about how epidemiological knowledge about LASV and LF disease can be harnessed to improve responses against future LF outbreaks in Nigeria. The overall writing could be more concise. Throughout the paper there are several instances where similar information is presented in a slightly different manner. These redundancies can be corrected without impacting the scientific content of the paper. In addition, some sections of the review would benefit from some additional editing to improve the clarity and eliminate some difficult to read sentences.	Already taken care of. See lines 145-157 Already addressed See lines 194-202 With the new added information, this title will capture all All the redundancies have been corrected
Minor REVISION comments		
Optional/General comments		