Dear Greg,

Please find attached, comments from the primary reviewer within the attached version of the manuscript as well as additional comments provided in the Publications Review Form from Mike Keefer.  We are still waiting to receive the Publications Review Form from the primary reviewer, Yunda Huang, to see if there are any required changes prior to journal submission.  I will follow up with you as soon as I hear back.

Also, per the Ancillary Study Publications Policy (<http://www.hvtn.org/science/pubpolicyancillary.html>), ancillary publications must provide attribution to the HVTN and NIAID-NIH.  An example of such attribution is, “HVTN065 was conducted by the HIV Vaccine Trials Network (HVTN), and supported by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID).” In addition, please reference the HVTN Laboratory Program’s grant, UM1AI068618.

Lastly, DAIDS provided the following comments:

Below are comments from the Lab reviewer. But we also note that a computational/modeler mathematician should also provide a review of the document because much of the discussion is outside the expertise of the lab team. The lab reviewer did not find major flaws but had these minor clarification comments below.  (I am also checking to see if there is a mathematician modeler outside our team but I may not be able to find one to comment before your deadline)

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This is an interesting study to better understand the heterogeneous T cell sub-populations following vaccination. Clarifications are needed for the following:

Page 4: The discussion of antigen-specific T cells could be clarified. For example, it is accurate to say that relative to a particular Ag-stimulus, Ag specific T cell subpopulations are rare, but not that Ag specific T cells are a small fraction of total T cells. All T cells have a TCR and are potentially Ag-specific.

Page 20: The authors state that in the context of HIV, poly-functional cell populations have been shown to be correlated with vaccine protection. This is misleading, as the authors are really referring to a Leishmania vaccine study that they reference. It would be helpful to re-write this section to clarify that in the context of HIV, they are referring to disease non-progression, while in vaccination, poly clonal responses have been associated with protection from Leishmania.