Reviewer's report

**Title:** Sidestream cigarette smoke effects on cardiovascular responses in conscious rats: involvement of oxidative stress in the fourth cerebral ventricle

**Version:** 1 **Date:** 29 September 2011

**Reviewer:** Qing-Hua Jin

**Reviewer's report:**

Comments: Major Compulsory Revisions

1. It is not well defined why the authors associated SSCS with ATZ injection. Despite the authors posed the question in the background: ‘no previous study evaluated the effects of cigarette exposure on brain oxidative stress and its involvement in the regulation of cardiovascular system’, but they also indicated that several studies already demonstrated this question.

2. Is local injection of ATZ a common method for inducing oxidative stress?

3. Since previous studies indicated that SSCS (three weeks) did not affect the BP and HR in normal and hypertensive rats, why did the authors choose this quantity? If the quantity of SSCS is enhanced, are there some changes in cardiovascular parameters?

4. The scale bar and some important sites mentioned in the manuscript have to be marked out in Fig.1. The figure legends need to be modified.

5. The discussion was prolix and it didn’t focus on results and conclusion closely.

6. The abstract was not very clear and concise.

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**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