Reviewer’s report

Title: Altered cardiac autonomic nervous function in depression

Version: 3 Date: 21 June 2013

Reviewer: Elisabetta Patron

Reviewer’s report:

The authors report on an interesting and well-designed study analyzing the relation between depression and altered autonomic nervous system, as reflected by a reduced Heart Rate Variability. The methods are appropriated and now well described. Important methodological limitations including the small sample size, the non generality of the results, and the lack of analysis on the effects of medication usage have already been mentioned by the authors and seem well-founded. The authors now completely answered the original criticism.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'