Reviewer’s report

**Title:** The effect of sunlight exposure on interleukin-6 levels in depressive and non-depressive subjects

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 14 December 2012

**Reviewer:** Alec J Davidson

**Reviewer’s report:**

**Major Compulsory:**
The limitation to one diurnal time of measurement potentially limits the conclusions significantly. IL-6 is rhythmic in blood, and this rhythm (amplitude, phase etc) may be altered by day length. Work in hamsters on photoperiodic modulation of the immune system (e.g. see work by Prendergast and by Nelson) supports this idea. Thus, the authors need to more fully address the other possible interpretations of their data given than changes in the rhythmicity of IL-6 could be observed as a change in amount in their single time-point study.

**Minor essential:**
IL-6 is not always beneficial. Too much induces phagocytosis and is implicated in sepsis, a deadly condition. Thus the authors should not exclusively characterize IL-6 as protective since it may mislead readers.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**
I declare that I have no competing interests.