Reviewer's report

Title: Unemployment and ill health: a connection through inflammation?

Version: 2 Date: 18 September 2009

Reviewer: Nicolas Rohleder

Reviewer's report:

The authors have addressed all of my comments. Only one point remains:
in responding to my second comment, the authors have added a limitations section in the discussion. Here they say that the measurement using xMAP technology revealed “somewhat low levels”. I don’t believe that this statement is correct, and I should have made my point clearer. In fact, luminex measurements of unstimulated plasma IL-6 reveal levels that are higher than those obtained with ELISA techniques. This is also the case here, with 27.51 pg/ml. Using ELISA, I would expect mean levels in a healthy population to be between undetectable and 3 pg/ml. I agree that this does not invalidate the study’s findings, but it makes comparisons between studies difficult and should therefore be discussed.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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