Reviewer's report

**Title:** Interference with work in fibromyalgia - effect of treatment with pregabalin and relation to pain response

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 4 May 2011

**Reviewer:** Geoff Littlejohn

**Reviewer's report:**

This is a clear and well presented study. The importance of individual response to a pain intervention is linked to the potent functional social outcome of work. The study uses a unique data set to better define clinically important outcomes of individual responders to a pain modulating medication [pregabalin]in fibromyalgia.

The point that the study makes is that significant societal outcomes are seen in individual patients that respond well to a pain intervention. The study shows that newly defined pain response targets are indeed clinically useful and show important responses in individuals that are not obvious in the traditional way of analyzing group trial data.

This study is therefore important at several levels - it is clinically relevant, it uses novel analysis approaches, highlighting individual patient responses, and it reinforces the approach to define pain outcomes as both state and response.

**Level of interest:** An article of outstanding merit and interest 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 have been principal investigator at our institution [Monash Medical Centre, Melbourne] for a trial using pregabalin. I have acted as a consultant to Pfizer on the topic of fibromyalgia. I have no shares in Pfizer and have no competing financial interests in Pfizer or pregabalin and no non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper.