Reviewer’s report

Title: The identification of patients with the clinical diagnosis of fibromyalgia using a multiplex cytokine assay

Version: 1 Date: 7 August 2012

Reviewer: Mario D. Cordero

Reviewer’s report:

The manuscript “The identification of patients with the clinical diagnosis of fibromyalgia using a multiplex cytokine assay” by Behm and co-workers study an important topic related with pathophysiology of Fibromyalgia. Although the result are interesting the manuscript requires an important review.

Major review:

The author report using 110 patients, however, They don’t use all patients for each cytokine. (example: 26 with IL5, 47 with IL6, etc). It is very important to have data of the total sample in order to get a conclusion.

The standard deviation is very large. This show high levels of variability, so perhaps could they have several patients increased level of inflammation?.

I miss a table with clinical data of patients. It is very important to have the clinical symptoms because we don’t know if the patients suffered depression symptoms. Without this information, we can not to think overlap of the diagnoses of mental depression.

Please, show information about the healthy controls.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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’