Reviewer's report

Title: Myalgic encephalomyelitis / chronic fatigue syndrome and Encephalomyelitis disseminata / multiple sclerosis show remarkable levels of similarity in phenomenology and neuro-immune characteristics.

Version: 1 Date: 22 July 2013

Reviewer: Ian Clark

Reviewer's report:

On reading this text in detail I found it well-written, with a few glitches arising from symbol recognition (see below) and, considering its length, few typos. Myalgic encephalomyelitis and multiple sclerosis are conditions that to date have yielded little to investigations into their pathogenesis, and thus rational treatment. This detailed comparison of their clinical, biochemical and immunological characteristics is novel. It seems a very plausible narrative to me, although I have of course not read most of the numerous references. The remarkable similarities of dysregulation that these authors have been brought to our attention warrant being on record in order to alert others in the field to experimental possibilities that they otherwise might have not appreciated.

1. Section 5 on pages 12-13 has several symbol errors (beta, gamma, and kappa), perhaps a technical font-reading problem. A similar error is on page 27. 2. The word "for" on line 6 of page 11 should be "from". 3. The word "or" on the last line of page 23 should be "of". 4. The header of the second column of Table 1 should read ED/MS for consistency with the other Tables. These all come under the category of minor essential revisions.

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.