Reviewer's report

Title: B. anthracis Associated Cardiovascular Dysfunction and Shock: The Potential Contribution of Both Non-toxin and Toxin Components

Version: 3 Date: 27 April 2013

Reviewer: Danny Altmann

Reviewer's report:

I think this a pretty timely and, in parts, novel review of this important subject. I propose the following minor revisions:

1. The authors have done well in their attempted synthesis of what is still a fairly baffling picture of bacterial pathogenesis, especially the interplay in shock between an excessive inflammatory response and direct bacterial effects. One did feel though that there was, at times, a somewhat uncritical lumping of many observations, including a large number of rodent challenge findings that appear, in many respects, extremely distant from the findings in humans. Perhaps more caution would be warranted in these areas.

2. While it is for the editors to make the final aesthetic decisions, one felt that Figure 1 might benefit from a little more artistic input!

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