Reviewer's report

Title: Improving Global Health Governance to Combat Counterfeit Medicines: A Proposal for a UNODC-WHO-Interpol Trilateral Mechanism

Version: 1 Date: 28 August 2013

Reviewer: Marv Shepherd

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revision
I have no major compulsory revisions. However, on
Page 8 it should be made clearer that WHO doesn't have any enforcement jurisdiction in countries. As mentioned, WHO is limited to providing information, suggestions and expertise if the resources are available.

Minor revisions
Bottom of page 5 estimates of the global market for counterfeit drugs mentions the over used $75 billion. Suggest that the authors use other estimates for example the World Customs Organization estimates the falsified drug market is $200 billion. This will show the range and our lack of information on the topic.

Page six: Recommend that that comments about operation Pangea by Interpol document the number of web sites closed. (The authors mentions millions of counterfeit drugs seized by operation Pangea but the paragraph topic is the internet. The number of internet site shut down should be mentioned..

Discretionary Revisions
Last paragraph page six, first sentence needs clarifying--PSI collects information counterfeit, diverted and stolen pharmaceuticals, not just counterfeit. It is later explained but I believe it would be better if it were upfront in the paragraph

The article is not easy to understand mainly due to the use of acronyms and the many international organizations described. If one is not familiar with the area I believe it will be a difficult read. The table does help, but perhaps a diagram or flow chart of the groups recommended and their role in the proposed organization would help. Just a suggestion.

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 I have no financial competing interest.

I am on the Board of Directors and President for the Partnership for Safe Medicines, an organization dedicated to combating counterfeit pharmaceuticals. This is a volunteer non-compensated position.