Reviewer’s report

**Title:** How large are the non-specific effects of acupuncture? A meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 10 October 2010

**Reviewer:** Charlie Xue

**Reviewer’s report:**

* MAJOR COMPULSORY REVISIONS: None
* MINOR ESSENTIAL REVISIONS:

1. As mentioned in the response to the reviewers’ comments (specifically Bauer), Chinese databases were not systematically searched for this review. Thus, there is a potential risk that studies published in Chinese language/journals that might have met the inclusion criteria were not included in this review. Thus, it is important that the authors make this explicit in the methods section of the MS and also include this as one of the limitations in the discussion section.

2. Conclusions: The majority of this one page long "conclusions" appears to be more appropriate in the discussion as many of these points are interpretation of the findings instead of as a conclusion from the review.

* DISCRETIONARY REVISIONS: None

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

N/A