Reviewer's report

**Title:** Fluoxetine in Progressive Multiple Sclerosis (FLUOX-PMS): study protocol for a randomized controlled trial

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 29 October 2013

**Reviewer:** Robert Weissert

**Reviewer's report:**

The authors investigate the effects of fluoxetine (2x20mg) or placebo in patients with secondary chronic progressive MS and progressive MS over a time period of 108 weeks. This is potentially an important study, since no effective disease modifying treatments are available for secondary chronic progressive MS and progressive MS.

Major points:
In the inclusion criteria degree of disease progression should be better defined.

The authors should define more exactly `progressive MS`. I would rather stick to patients with secondary chronic progressive MS to keep the variation in disease phenotypes lower.

The authors should assess the walking distance as additional parameter.

As an additional scale the MS walking scale (MSWS-12) that is a self-reported scale of patients would be of interest.

MRI sequences should be defined in greater detail.

It would be great to see a figure of the planned study indicating the visits and assessments at different time points.

How are the study nurses trained?

Who is performing all the cognitive assessments?

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

There is no competing interest.