Reviewer’s report

Title: Positive affect as a moderator of the effects of stress on psychological functioning and perceived health

Version: 2 Date: 14 March 2013

Reviewer: Shannon Wiltsey Stirman

Reviewer’s report:

This concise, well-written manuscript used cross-sectional, self report data to test the hypothesis that positive affect moderates the association between perceived stress, and depression, anxiety, and perceived health.

Major compulsory revisions:
My main concern with this paper is the possibility of common method variance, so I was glad to see that the authors listed it as a limitation. However, they did not appear to have tested for common method variance, and there may be some ways to do so that would strengthen confidence in the findings (if in fact they reveal that CMV was not detected). There are also some potential remedies for CMV that the authors should consider (see references below).

Additionally, in the discussion regarding future studies, in addition to longitudinal research, the authors might consider adding the use of multiple data sources (e.g., diagnostic interviews, questionnaires, etc.)

The authors assert that the timeframes specified in the questionnaires are consistent with the possibility of a causal relationship (e.g., perceived stress preceding moderator and outcome). It is unclear that survey respondents attended to the different timeframes in the questionnaires, and the statement is not very convincing. It would be better to just state that a different research design is needed to establish causality.

minor essential revisions:
p. 4, Method, first sentence, "was" should be changed to "were"
p. 7, Descriptive Analyses, 3rd sentence: "respondent" should be plural


Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely
related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I have no competing interests to declare.