Reviewer’s report

Title: Fake facts and alternative truths in medical research

Version: 0 Date: 15 Nov 2017

Reviewer: Wendy Lipworth

Reviewer's report:

This is a provocative and interesting short article on the issue of polarised scientific opinions and their effect on the generation, interpretation and presentation of scientific evidence. I think that the article should be published but that the authors need to include some more information about

- What exactly a polarised group is
- How an individual member of such a group might be recognised by, for example, a reviewer
- What a declaration of a polarised interest might look like

Polarisation is the key concept underpinning the whole article and at present the reader is left with only a vague idea of what it actually means and how it might be detected and declared in publication.

Minor points:

- P3 Line 23: Not sure what is meant by "certain facts are exalted empirical testing" (is there a word missing here)?

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess
Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I recommend additional statistical review

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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