Author's response to reviews

Title: Association of the RYR3 gene polymorphisms with atherosclerosis in elderly Japanese population

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Dear editorial board of *BMC Cardiovascular Disorders*

Please find enclosed the manuscript: Association of the RYR3 gene polymorphisms with atherosclerosis in elderly Japanese population, by Chenxi Zhao et al., to be submitted as a Research Article to *BMC Cardiovascular Disorders*. All co-authors have seen and agree with the contents of the manuscript and there is no financial interest to report. We certify that the submission is not under review at any other publication and the manuscript has never been published anywhere.

In this manuscript, we report the results of a genetic association study in a Japanese elderly population on the risk of systemic atherosclerosis.

We believe that our findings could be of interest to the readers of *BMC Cardiovascular Disorders*, because they could have a novel insight on the pathophysiology of atherosclerosis. Indeed, we now show that the A allele of the rs2229116 SNP of the RYR3 gene is a risk factor for systemic atherosclerosis.

This study could bring new and important light in the field of atherosclerosis research that the RYR3 is a susceptibility gene for systemic atherosclerosis and we hope that the editorial board and the reviewers will agree on the interest of this study.

Sincerely yours,

Chenxi Zhao and Masaaki Muramatsu on behalf of the authors.

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