Reviewer's report

Title: No evidence for an association between the -36A>C Phospholamban gene polymorphism and a worse prognosis in Heart Failure

Version: 2 Date: 18 May 2009

Reviewer: Maximilian G Posch

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The revision were nicely done and very responsive. The reliability of the manuscript did particularly improve by the inclusion of the additional genotypes.

I have two minor point:

1. One would not expect a difference in medication in relation to the genotype. Moreover, Table 6 is not mentioned in the manuscript text. Therefore, table six should be omitted.

2. The authors investigate specific cardiac phenotypes in relation to a variant in the PLN gene. Though they could not find an association of the -36A>C variant with a specific phenotype they should include a recent study from our group on a specific DCM phenotype related to a PLN mutation (Posch et al, Heart Rhythm (4) 2009). This study highlights a relation of PLN mutations on specific DCM phenotypes. The reference (Posch et al) should be cited as an underlying rationale for the genotype-phenotype analysis in the current paper.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.