Reviewer’s report

Title: The Dawn of African American IBD

Version: 1 Date: 15 March 2010

Reviewer: Subra Kugathasan

Reviewer’s report:

Not only disparities exist in health care delivery between White and black populations in the USA, but the studies (descriptive studies, clinical trials, basic science and translational) involving blacks are lacking considerably in all areas of medicine compared to whites. A quick pubmed search yielded 24670 enteris for Crohn’s disease, but when African-American or black race was added only 37 articles came up. Besides, available data on Crohn’s disease affecting African-Americans, the course and outcomes of the disease is limited, and there is a complete absence of population based data in this population. It is clear whatever we learn by studying Caucasians in IBD can not be directly translated to non-Caucasians such as African Americans. The area of Shreveport/Bossier City Louisiana has a predominantly (>50%) African-American population and was evaluated for cases of Crohn’s disease and ulcerative colitis between 2000-09. Although this is a very descriptive study, without any novel findings, this work of describing one of the largest African-American IBD cohort will add knowledge to the literature tremendously in a area where we do need more data. The manuscript should be shortened and many figures can be simply entered into text.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests