Reviewer's report

Title: Lipoprotein lipase activity and mass, apolipoprotein C-II mass and polymorphisms of apolipoproteins E and A5 in subjects with prior acute hypertriglyceridaemic pancreatitis

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Reviewer: John Brunzell

Reviewer's report:

Major:
1. The authors addressed whether biochemical or clinical differences could be noted in severely hypertriglyceridemic patients who had and did not have pancreatitis. Other than finding 5 patients with LPL deficiency, there were few differences. A borderline increase in apoA5 snp was noted in HTG with pancreatitis. The first paragraph is not clear about this.
2. Results: Estimates of positive family history are probably underestimates unless relatives were actually studied. This should be noted.
3. The measures of chylomicron lipids are estimates at best. This technique is not able to distinguish between smaller chylomicrons and larger VLDL. Did they measure apoB48 and apoB100? NMR has not been shown to differentiate between these particles either. They should call their chylomicrons "estimated".

Minor:
1. Page 3, line 2: "1.3-3.5%" of what?
2. Page 4, line 6: Delete word "promising". This is still experimental.
4. Page 6, para 3: Split last sentence with period after word "plasma". Start second part of sentence with "One mU".
5. Results: Were fibrates started after the bouts of pancreatitis? This might lead to further underestimation of triglyceride levels.
6. Put BMI into table, perhaps in place of weight.
7. Page 10, end of para 2: add "or by measuring postheparin plasma LPL activity"
8. Page 11, delete last sentence in para 1. See major comment #3 above.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.