Reviewer's report

Title: The interferon gamma gene polymorphism +874 A/T is associated with severe acute respiratory syndrome

Version: 1 Date: 22 March 2006

Reviewer: Jan Verhoef

Reviewer's report:

General

This manuscript is well written and deals with an important question: the genetic susceptibility of the host to the SARS coronavirus.
The authors chose to study gene polymorphisms of IFN?, TNFa and IL-10.
The IFN? +874A allele was associated with susceptibility to SARS. This is certainly of interest as the authors discuss, because the T allele of IFN? +874A/T provides a binding site for NF-κB.
The only problem I have is the following: although the observation is of interest the question is whether this paper should be published as a separate study or as part of a larger study.
As the manuscript is short (4½ pages of text) I am bound to say that it could be published as it stands.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

None

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

p.5 : SNPs should be written in full 'single nucleotide polymorphisms.'
p.6 : single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) substituted by SNPs
p.6 : T allele of IFN-g should be IFN?

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

None

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that have no competing interests.
Jan Verhoef, MD, PhD