Reviewer's report

Title: The association of RANTES polymorphism with severe acute respiratory syndrome in Hong Kong and Beijing Chinese

Version: 1 Date: 19 March 2007

Reviewer: Friedemann Weber

Reviewer's report:

General

In this manuscript of Ng et al., an association of a polymorphism at bp -28 in the RANTES promoter was found to be associated with SARS pathogenesis. Among the Hong Kong Chinese population, -28 CG and GG had an increased susceptibility to SARS, whereas for the Beijing Chinese population -28 CG and GG means higher SARS virulence. This study nicely complements previous work on the importance of inflammation and chemokines in SARS pathogenesis. The amount of collected data is impressive and the conclusions are sound.

Minor point:
- publications usually do not replicate but confirm previous findings. Please replace relicated by confirmed (several times in the text)

What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions

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