Reviewer's report

Title: Multiple Splice Defects in ABCA1 cause Low HDL-C in a family with Hypoalphalipoproteinemia and Premature Coronary Disease

Version: 1 Date: 30 September 2008

Reviewer: Michel Marcil

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

No major corrections are necessary. The authors have improved substantially their manuscript in addressing all the comments from reviewers. The results are made more clear and convincing.

Minor Essential Revisions

Page 12, Minigene transfection from the Results section. The discussion on IVS7 to explain the unexpected result, based on references 18, 19, 20, should appear rather in the Discussion section.

Please correct some abbreviations: Calif should be corrected by CA; although authors have mentioned to have done this correction, 6 Calif abbreviations are still present in Material and Methods section; in page 8, ABC-A1 should be corrected by ABCA1 to use the standard abbreviation.

In Figure 1, the shading of the symbols used to represent differently exon 32 and exon 7 skipping mutation are quite confusing. Please use a clear pattern in these symbols.

Discretionary Revisions

No additional recommendations.

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.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.