Reviewer's report

Title: Association of ADAM33 gene polymorphisms with COPD in a northeastern Chinese population

Version: 1 Date: 12 May 2009

Reviewer: Kostas Spiropoulos

Reviewer's report:

Dear Authors,

The investigation of polymorphisms in a population is always valuable, however there are some Minor Essential Revisions that have to be made:

1. The language used. Corrections needed in "Background" 2nd paragraph: some verbs are not present or the subject of sentence is not in position.
2. The selection of patients. It is stated that COPD patients had NO previous treatment. It is assumed that they are newly diagnosed? Moreover the you say that the patient group had "no exacerbation within the preceding month". Why do you use this exclusion criterion?
3. You have also investigated these polymorphisms in asthma and allergic rhinitis. Do you have a suggestion regarding the pathogenetic mechanism?
4. You should provide the p values in table 4.
5. Regression analysis could be valuable, since this analysis is more appropriate for matched data and will strengthen the presentation.
6. You have to be more specific on their difference from the Dutch results.

Finally, this is a worth publishing article and we suggest your publishing it after these minor revisions.

Kind regards,
Kostas Spiropoulos
Professor of Pneumology
University of Patras
Greece

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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