Author's response to reviews

Title: Evidence for an association of HLA-DRB1*15 and DRB1*09 with leprosy and the impact of DRB1*09 on disease onset in a Chinese Han population

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Author's response to reviews: see over
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Dear Editors:

Thank you very much for your and three reviewer’s appreciation of our manuscript. The comments and suggestions from you and the reviewers are truly helpful for improving the manuscript. Enclosed please find the revised manuscript “Evidence for an association of HLA-DRB1*15 and DRB1*09 with leprosy and the impact of DRB1*09 on disease onset in a Chinese Han population” MS: 2071306068255417.

In the revised manuscript, we have addressed all the reviewers’ comments. In particular, we have asked for help from English Manager Science Editing to improve our English. As requested, we have provided point-to-point responses to the reviewers’ comments.

We are looking forward to hearing a favorable response from you soon.

Yours sincerely,
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Comments from Milton O Moraes

Authors should review the statement concerning he authorship of "leprosy per se" theory at the discussion. I guess that they should not claim that Casanova JL described the theory. Other researchers came up with the idea earlier.

Answer: We have corrected the mistake.

Comments from Dimitri S Monos

In the most recent version of the revised manuscript the authors include a table with the results of the Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium test they performed but they do not mention these results or make any comments in the manuscript. I think it is necessary to mention something about the reason the analysis was done and the significance of the findings.

Answer: We have stated the sentence “All markers with allele frequency above 0.01 have been tested and were in HW equilibrium.” in the results.

Comments from Marcelo Mira

1. The authors may have misunderstood my first comment from the latest review -perhaps I was not clear enough when asking to include results of HW equilibrium test in the manuscript. It was not necessary to create a large table including detailed results but yet, just to state in "results" that "all markers with allele frequency above ____ have been tested and were in HW
We have stated the sentence “All markers with allele frequency above 0.01 have been tested and were in HW equilibrium.” in the results. And the supplementary table 1 was deleted.

2. In response to Dr. Monos, the authors credit Dr. Jean Laurent Casanova for the proposal of the two-step model for leprosy pathogenesis, with different genes controlling infection and clinical outcome - in fact, the idea is older than the reference provided and most likely should be credited to Dr. De Vries and his group from Holland. We suggest the reading of T. Ottenhoff’s review on the subject for further information (Int. J. Leprosy 55(3), 1987).

Answer: We have corrected this mistake.

2. We suggest the authors to submit the manuscript to an independent, native English speaking expert for revision.

Answer: We have asked for help from English Manager Science Editing to improve our English.