Reviewer's report

**Title:** Association study of the HLA-DRB1 locus reveals the first evidence for the association of HLA-DRB1*15 and DRB1*09 with leprosy and the impact of DRB1*09 on the onset of disease in Chinese population

**Version:** 3 **Date:** 22 May 2009

**Reviewer:** Dimitri S Monos

**Reviewer's report:**

The authors have not adequately addressed two of the points I brought to their attention. Their answer to point 1 is not adequate and at least they should have brought it up in the discussion and explain their position. What is a question for me most likely will be for many.

On point #3 their answer is not accurate. We have been using this technology in my lab. They do not need to know the sequence of the probes. The company provides the information concerning the polymorphic sites recognized by each probe even if they do not disclose the exact sequence of the probe.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests