Author's response to reviews

Title: IL6 and CRP haplotypes are associated with COPD risk and systemic inflammation: a case-control study

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editorial Team,

Thank you for opportunity to revise and resubmit the manuscript. We appreciate the helpful comments from the reviewers which we believe improved the manuscript. Detailed response to the comments of reviewer 1 is provided below.

We hope the revised manuscript meets all journal requirements and will be approved for publication.

Yours sincerely,
On behalf of all co-authors,

Dilyara Yanbaeva

Reviewer: Craig Hersh
Reviewer's report:

The authors have responded adequately to my comments and the comments from Dr. Wilk. I have only two minor comments.

Minor Essential Revisions:

1. In their response to my comment #2, the authors clearly explain why they did not perform a genetic comparison between the "inflammatory" and "non-inflammatory" groups. This explanation appears reasonable, yet in the Discussion (p.13), they use their results of the IL6 haplotype association to support "a specific COPD subgroup with low CRP plasma levels." Since they did not test genetic effects on the non-inflammatory subgroup, this statement does not follow from their data and should be removed.

Authors’ reply:

Following the reviewer comments, we have adjusted the text in the Discussion (p.13) as following: “Interestingly, our findings also suggest that low CRP levels may be associated with significantly higher COPD risk in carriers of a specific IL6 haplotype” as a replacement for the previous version “Our finding of specific IL6 haplotype association with low CRP levels and significantly higher COPD risk provide additional evidence for separation of a specific COPD subgroup with low CRP plasma levels”.

2. Reference #47 includes Russian characters in the reference.

Authors’ reply:

Copy-paste error in the reference 47 has been corrected in the original endnote file.