Reviewer's report

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

Version: 2 Date: 4 January 2009

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.

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

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