Reviewer’s report

Title: Association study of SHANK3 gene polymorphisms with autism in Chinese Han population

Version: 3 Date: 13 March 2009

Reviewer: Mariko Y Momoi

Reviewer’s report:

The authors presented their negative data on the contribution of SHANK3 gene to autism after analyzing SHANK 3 sequences of Chinese patients and controls, and discussed that SHANK3 may not be a major candidate gene for autism. They did not detect significant link between SHANK3 SNPs and affected condition and did not detect mutation either that was specific to the patients. Their study was precisely done and their data were properly analyzed. However, we know that the mutation of a certain candidate gene is detected among less than 1% of the affected, and the negative data about the specific SNPs or mutations in the study scale presented by them does not add any scientific information we need. I regret that the data they reported does not have sufficient importance in the area of autism.

Level of interest: An article of insufficient interest to warrant publication in a scientific/medical journal

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.