Author's response to reviews

Title: Absence of association between SERPINE2 genetic polymorphisms and COPD in Han Chinese; a case-control cohort study

Authors:

    Li Zhong (lilian_619@yahoo.com.cn)
    Wei-Ping Fu (fuweiping2@163.com)
    Chang Sun (sunchang1@gmail.com)
    Lu-Ming Dai (dailuming@hotmail.com)
    Ya-Ping Zhang (zhangyp1@263.net.cn)

Version: 2 Date: 11 November 2008

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

Recent studies have suggested that serine protease inhibitor E2 (SERPINE2) was a novel susceptibility gene for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) by altering the repair of smoking-induced lung damage (DeMeo et al. 2006 Am J Hum Genet 78: 253-264; Zhu et al. 2007 Am J Respir Crit Care Med 176: 167-173). However, this issue still remains controversial (Chappell et al. 2006 Am J Hum Genet 79: 184-186). Moreover, all above studies were based only on Caucasian and thus it remains unclear whether their conclusions also apply for other populations. To get a comprehensive insight into the question and hopefully illustrate the relationship between SERPINE2 and COPD, additional populations with different genetic background should be scrutinized.

To fulfill this goal, we genotyped these five putative causal SNPs of SERPINE2 in a Chinese case-control cohorts and performed an exhaustive analysis. We failed to observe any significant difference in SNP distribution between our patient and control groups. Since we were the first report to investigate the relationship between SERPINE2 SNPs and COPD in East Asian population, our results provided valuable information and reasonable referee to evaluate the role of SERPINR2 in COPD. Furthermore, based on the reanalysis of the data in previous study (DeMeo et al. 2006 Am J Hum Genet 78: 253-264), we also cautioned the abuse of statistical calculation without decent correction, which might result in serious false positive.

Our manuscript (entitle “Absence of association between SERPINE2 genetic polymorphisms and COPD in Han Chinese”, authors: Li Zhong, Wei-Ping Fu, Chang Sun, Lu-Ming Dai, and Ya-Ping Zhang) is based on this study, which we would like to submit to BMC Medicine as an research article. And we state that this paper is not submitted or being considered to be published in any other journals.

As potential referees, we would suggest:

1. Dr. Noor Kalsheker
We also would like to state that Dr Dawn L. DeMeo, Dr. Edwin K. Silverman, and Dr Sreekumar G. Pillai hold a contrary opinion and might run the conflict of interest.

For further information regarding to the manuscript, please contact with me.

Ya-Ping Zhang, Ph. D.
Kunming Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences
Kunming, Yunnan, 650223 China
PHONE: (86)871-5199030; FAX: (86)871-5195430
E-mail: zhangyp1@263.net.cn
Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely yours,

Ya-ping