Author’s response to reviews

Title: FOXP2 gene and language impairment in schizophrenia: association and epigenetic studies

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Author’s response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,

Enclosed please find the revised manuscript entitled “**FOXP2 gene and language impairment in schizophrenia: association and epigenetic studies**” (Manuscript ID 2798176013537564), to be considered for publication in **BMC Medical Genetics** as a Research paper. Below we comment all the concerns of the referees.

We consider that the topic and relevance of the research performed here make this work suitable to be published in your journal.

Thank you in advance for your attention.

Sincerely,

Dr. Amparo Tolosa
Changes from the previously submitted paper are highlighted in the main text of the paper.

**Minor essential revisions**
*Their conclusion section reading as: “Our results do not support the involvement of FOXP2 in the vulnerability to schizophrenia as a global syndrome. Nevertheless, this gene might be implicated in schizophrenia through its role in language impairment. Epigenetic mechanisms affecting the expression of FOXP2 might be also contributing to the developing of this disorder.” tends to underrate their findings. Maybe it should be more straightforwardly read as: “Our results implicate FOXP2 in schizophrenia through its role in language development. Epigenetic mechanisms affecting the expression of FOXP2 might contribute to the development of schizophrenia and related neurodevelopmental disorders.”*

The authors would like to keep their approach in considering schizophrenia not as a whole syndrome. That is why changes were made as it follows: “Our results do not support the involvement of FOXP2 in the vulnerability to schizophrenia as a global syndrome. Nevertheless, this gene might be implicated in schizophrenia through its role in language impairment. **Epigenetic mechanisms affecting the expression of FOXP2 might contribute to the development of schizophrenia and related neurodevelopmental disorders.**”

**Discretionary revisions**
*Meanwhile, a just published case report on CNTNAP2 (a downstream target of FOXP2) further highlights the hypothesis that FOXP2 may indeed be a core regulator of language development in humans (Disruption of CNTNAP2 and additional structural genome changes in a boy with speech delay and autism spectrum disorder, in Neurogenetics (2010) 11(1):81-89). The authors may consider citing this paper as additional support for their hypothesis.*

The authors appreciated this suggestion and proper changes were made. The mentioned paper was included, as well as the one in which CNTNAP2 was described as target of FOXP2 (page 4).
Minor points:

The first name of de Frutos Rosa seems to be missing.
First name is Rosa. This was properly changed.

The affiliation in Oxford should be number 4 instead of number 3 (which represents already the CIBERSAM in Valencia). This was properly changed.

Some of the English usage needs touching up before printing.
This was taken into account.