Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Genes encoding critical transcriptional activators for murine neural tube development and human spina bifida: a case-control study

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 31 July 2010

**Reviewer:** Lavinia Schuler-Faccini

**Reviewer’s report:**

This manuscript presents an interesting approach for identifying new potential genes involved in the etiology of NTDs in humans, through the study of genes involved in transcriptional activators in the murine neural tube development. Unfortunately the sample was too small to detect potential interaction between the genes studied.

I support its publishing but some minor reviews in the supplementary tables
In table 2, there are abbreviations not explained : MAF, HWE
In table 3, it is mentioned that only associations with p < 0.05 are presented. There is one p (rs rs129986, CREB) where P is < 0.08 and it has an asterisk above, which is not explained at the bottom of this table.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**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.