Reviewer's report

Title: Leptin receptor (LEPR) SNP polymorphisms in HELLP syndrome patients determined by quantitative real-time PCR and melting curve analysis.

Version: 2 Date: 12 January 2010

Reviewer: Hannele Laivuori

Reviewer's report:

Thank You for the opportunity to re-revise this manuscript. The authors have addressed issues raised by the two reviewers point-by-point, and the manuscript has much improved. However, I still have some concerns and feel that the manuscript needs some revisions.

Major compulsory revision:

1. I sincerely apologise that this major concern has not been presented in my first review. The haplotypes have been presented in haplotype combinations (both strands included), e.g. AG AG GG AG in abstract. I'm not familial with this kind of a presentation. Consequently, it is impossible to tell, which is the individual haplotype in each chromosome. I strongly recommend that the authors reanalyze haplotypes and revise the Table 4.

Minor essential revisions:

1. Please incorporate your reply on statistical issues in to the manuscript. (Our sample size provided sufficient statistical power (>80% at Type I error rate of 0.05) to detect 21% difference in LEPR c.326A>G genotypes).

2. Please consider commenting also in the Discussion why you were unable to analyze the fetal genotype.

3. In the present study four SNP:s were analyzed from the same patients (multiple testing). Please clarify your reply. The issue on multiple testing is not only related to the familial samples.

4. Several abbreviations are still undefined when they appear first time in the text (e.g. IUGR page 4). All abbreviations need to be defined also in each Table.

5. Please correct: the second SNP has been written in two different ways c.6687A>G (see abstract) and c.668A>G (in the text and the Tables).

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable
**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests