Reviewer’s report

Title: Genetic Heterogeneity of Ellis-van Creveld in the United Arab Emirates

Version: 2 Date: 11 November 2009

Reviewer: Zhuan Bian

Reviewer’s report:

- In the results section, the description of patients’ phenotypes is still verbose. Since a table has been used to explain the clinical features, the word description should be greatly reduced.

- Are the family 2 and 3 different from the families in the reference (Tompson et al., 2007)? If so, in the results, the description is not appropriate. The authors should show that they identified the mutations which were previously reported by Tompson et al rather than “confirm the mutation of Tompson reported”, and should add “this study” in the table 4, and also need to revise some words in the discussion.

- Considering Table 1 as supplementary materials is more appropriate.

- Legend of Figure 3, italicize the gene names

- Figure 1, standardize the family pedigree drawing.

- The reference format needs to be carefully unified one by one, based on the journal request.

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

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published