Reviewer's report

Title: High frequency of Machado-Joseph disease identified in Southeastern Chinese kindreds with spinocerebellar ataxia

Version: 2 Date: 19 November 2009

Reviewer: alfredo brusco

Reviewer's report:

Dear authors,

There are still some minor errors throughout the text that should be carefully revised by a mother tongue.

For instance, abstract: results: “This frequency was also the highest level globally”, may become “This frequency was one of the highest reported worldwide”; “globally” may be substitute with “worldwide” in other parts of the text.

This sentence is repeated almost identical one line below in abstract, conclusions

Page 8 line 1. “Thus it seems”. I don’t think this statement is correct. There are proofs that other factors besides CAG length can predispose to expansions and can act in cis or in trans (see ref 57). The authors are making a circular argument. I would keep this part of the discussion shorter and softer, suggesting that a higher prevalence of AN may be prone for full expansions.

Page 9 “Additionally,…” this is really too speculative. I would suggest to erase up to “is not affected”.

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

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