Reviewer's report

Title: Allelic variants of IL1R1 gene associate with severe hand osteoarthritis

Version: 2 Date: 27 August 2009

Reviewer: Ingrid Meulenbelt

Reviewer's report:

Minor essential revisions:
- There are 12 e-mail addresses provided but only 10 (co)-authors on the manuscript
- The authors have now added a figure displaying the D’ measure of linkage disequilibrium but in the text of the result section r2 is provided only.
- Page 10 final paragraph, it is stated: D’> xx ?
- Please provide in Table 3 the comparison that accompanies the P value.
- Please explain in the materials and methods or results section what X denotes. It may be not clear to the general reader that it represents the remaining haplotypes.

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

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