Reviewer’s report

Title: Common Genetic Variants on Chromosome 9p21 Are Associated with Myocardial Infarction and Type 2 Diabetes in an Italian Population.

Version: 2 Date: 18 January 2010

Reviewer: Harald Goring

Reviewer’s report:

The authors have made appropriate changes to the manuscript in response to previous reviewer critiques. The have added a new table (Table 1) summarizing the association results of the two examined SNPs from previous studies, demonstrating that for both SNPs there is substantial prior evidence of association. The present study adds an additional datapoint that confirms previous results and suggests that each SNP is only associated with one of the two diseases (type 2 diabetes mellitus, coronary artery disease) and not both. The authors also added background information on the parent studies from which the study participants were selected. While the possibility that population substructure in the Italian sample is a cause or contributor to the current finding cannot be excluded without molecular examination of population structure, it seems unlikely that this is the case given that all participants are Italian and given the strong prior support for these 2 SNPs.

The results thus are likely true, but only constitute a minor advance over current knowledge.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.