Reviewer's report

Title: Sex-specific genetic effect of phosphodiesterase 4D (PDE4D) on carotid atherosclerosis

Version: 1 Date: 6 November 2009

Reviewer: Vesna Boraska

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. The population of investigation should be clearly stated in the abstract and methods.
2. Please update the references with the most recent investigations of genetic association of PDE4D gene with stroke.
3. Please calculate the minor allele frequencies (MAF) for the investigated SNP and compare it with the HapMap or dbNCBI control MAFs for the ethnically same population as investigated in the study.
4. The 80% power of the investigated SNP should be calculated since the power is important for the interpretation of the results (you can use the program Quanto for the calculation of the power).
5. The exact numbers (with percentages in the brackets) should be introduced throughout the whole table 3.

Minor Essential Revisions

1. There is a spelling mistake in the title: phosphodiesterase
2. There are several grammar mistakes, especially with the use of plural. Please correct these throughout whole manuscript.

Discretionary Revisions

1. Please check and insert the previous name of the investigated SNP, by which this SNP was known and referred in the literature, if there is one.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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

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 in relation to the paper.