Reviewer's report

Title: Vitamin D Binding Protein Variants Associate Asthma Susceptibility in a Chinese Han Population

Version: 2 Date: 27 June 2011

Reviewer: Ahlem Saadi

Reviewer's report:

Authors have extensively revised the manuscript according to the points raised.

Minor Essential Revisions.

SNPs selection and genotyping:
1- According to the authors, SNPs rs4588 and rs7041 have been found to be associated with several chronic lung diseases, such as COPD and tuberculosis (references 27, 28). However, it would be better to develop this idea and precise exactly the populations in which these two SNPs have reported association results (adding the two references is not enough to justify SNPs selection).

2- Please, change the sentence “Genes were selected as coding for key enzymes or components responsible for the vitamin D metabolic pathway” with “All selected genes code for key enzymes or components responsible for vitamin D metabolic pathway”, or similar.

Discussion:
3- “We have identified that the full range of exonic genetic variants present in our cohort at allele frequencies #0.13%”…. The meaning of this sentence is unclear after changing, so please explain what do you mean? Or maybe change it to “We have identified that the full range of exonic genetic variants present in our cohort have shown allele frequencies #0.13%”.

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