Reviewer's report

Title: Association of genetic variants in chromosome 17q21 with adult onset asthma in a Chinese Han population

Version: 2 Date: 11 September 2011

Reviewer: Ting Fan Leung

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions: none.

Minor Essential Revisions: The authors have now added in a number of important information and findings about SNP and haplotype analyses. The abstract of this manuscript needs to be modified to provide these additional results.

The authors need to state the algorithm and method/software for assigning and analyzing haplotypes from their five studied SNPs. It would not be sufficient only to say 'by haplotype analysis'. Besides, the authors need to specify the reference haplotype based on which they calculate the ORs for various other risk or protective haplotypes in Table 4.

They need to state and explain in the Discussion their rationale not to adjust for multiple statistical comparisons for various results. The readers need to be aware of this and judge.

The authors also need to correct a number of typo and grammatical mistakes.

Discretionary Revisions: none.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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.