Author's response to reviews

Title: Effects of endotoxin exposure on childhood asthma risk are modified by a genetic polymorphism in ACAA1

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NOTE: Added "_2003" to the file names for the figures (to denote the fact that I had to upload figures as Microsoft 2003 documents).

Changes made to the revised manuscript during the proofing stage:

1. Added statement at the end of the author contribution paragraph “All authors have read and approved the final manuscript.”

2. Added the median exposure level and inter-quartile range for the Yale Conn. Cohort (only the Boston Home Allergens exposure levels had been reported previously in the results section in the Endotoxin Exposure paragraph). Fixed median and IQR for Home Allergens Endotoxin levels.

3. Merged background and objective into a single background section in the abstract.

4. Fixed author affiliations, removed degrees/qualifications from author list; Changed author affiliation of EW Triche to Brown University

5. Changed title to have sentence case
6. Removed word count and key words from title page

7. Fixed email list to have proper format

8. Placed tables after reference list

9. Removed highlighting, accepted track changes

10. Created additional files for supplementary material

11. Made Figure 2A and 2B into figure 2 and figure 3, renumbered from there

12. Changed reference 16 (to use the ref we always cite for further details about the Boston Home Allergens cohort)

13. Added a new reference (#15) to cite the in press article that is critical for my paper. (In prior revised version, this manuscript was mentioned as “Sharma et al, submitted). I used data from this in press article, Sharma et al, to inform the analyses that are done in the current manuscript. I have added tables from the in press article as supplementary files. Is this OK? Can you help with the best way to format these supplementary tables? I wasn’t really sure.

14. Fixed reference 20 to reflect most up to date method.

15. Fixed sentence on pg. 3, paragraph 2 in background section to accurately reflect findings in reference 14.

16. To keep wording consistent with other publications, I now refer to the “Home Allergens” study as the “Boston Cohort”, and the “Yale Study” is now referred to as the “Connecticut Cohort”.

17. Number of candidate genes mentioned in methods section (under “Genotyping and Identification of SNPs associated with asthma”) was changed from 46 to 44 (the actual # of genes examined).

18. Substituted “Caucasian” for “white” for consistency in manuscript

19. Updated genotyping website on pg 6 for Celera dataset

20. Table 1, Ever Breastfed in Asthma controls changed from 76 to 78%.
21. Changed p value in abstract from 0.003 to 0.0013 (for adjusted model)

22. Deleted redundant sentence about dust sampling for endotoxin in the Methods section under “Conn Childhood Asthma Study”. Early life endotoxin exposure for both Conn and Boston cohorts is explained in the next Methods section (“Early Life Endotoxin exposure”)

23. Added “55% of total eczema cases” to pg. 8 results, to clarify meaning of 55%.

24. Updated Funding info

25. Figure 2 did not have R2 values originally- (it was wrong)- so I replaced Figure 2 with an LD plot w/ R2 values