Author's response to reviews

Title: Single nucleotide polymorphisms at the TRAF1/C5 locus are associated with rheumatoid arthritis in a Han Chinese population

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Author's response to reviews: see over
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Scott Edmunds, PhD
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Dear Dr. Edmunds,

We would like to thank you and the reviewers for the constructive comments regarding our manuscript entitled “A single nucleotide polymorphism at the TRAF1/C5 locus is associated with rheumatoid arthritis in a Han Chinese population” (MS: 169091871343735). We have addressed the comments of reviewer #1 point by point below, which we feel have significantly improved the manuscript.

Reviewer #1

Reviewers report:

1. The authors have made minor adjustments to the paper. I note that no attempt was made to investigate the opposite direction of association between Asian and Caucasian populations.

Response: We agree with the reviewer’s point. We have genotyped one more SNP rs7021206 (located in TRAF1 intron 3) as the reviewer’s suggestion. rs7021206 was showed significant association with RA in the Han Chinese in this study, which is consistent with previous studies in Korean and Caucasian populations. We revised the manuscript accordingly.

2. Table 1 still does not contain any clinical data (only age and gender data).

Response: We agree with the reviewer’s point. We have put more clinical data in Table 1.

3. A further minor point: in the Abstract it is concluded that TRAF1/C5 may play an important role in development of RA in Han Chinese. This is overstating the data - the OR is low (1.3) and the locus will explain a fraction of a percent of the genetic variance.

Response: We modified the sentences in the manuscript accordingly.
We wish to again thank you and the reviewers for the helpful comments, and hope that our revisions have appropriately addressed the reviewer’s concerns and made the manuscript suitable for publication in the journal.

Sincerely,

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