Reviewer’s report

Title: A case-only study of gene-environment interaction between genetic susceptibility variants in NOD2 and cigarette smoking in Crohn’s disease aetiology

Version: 2 Date: 28 January 2012

Reviewer: Inga Peter

Reviewer’s report:

The authors have satisfactory addressed my concerns. I only have one minor comment.

Minor Compulsory Revisions

1. I disagree with the following statement: “While the association of NOD2 variants with CD is confirmed, the relatively small effect size of disease-associated NOD2 alleles even among homozygotes [16]…..” The three NOD2 variants described in the paper have been shown to confer a 17.1 fold (95% CI: 10.7 – 27.2) increased risk for the disease with homozygous or compound heterozygote risk allele carriage (Economou, Trikalinos et al. 2004), which is not small. What the authors probably meant is low frequency and penetrance of NOD2 variants in general population to support their assumption that additional factors are necessary for disease pathogenesis.


Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests