Reviewer’s report

Title: Influence of IL17A polymorphisms on the aberrant methylations of DAPK and CDH1 in non-cancerous gastric mucosa

Version: 5 Date: 5 March 2012

Reviewer: Chenggong Yu

Reviewer’s report:

Aberrations in DNA methylation patterns in related genes are accepted as being a common feature of human diseases. This article investigated the possible association of IL17A polymorphisms on the aberrant methylations of DAPK and CDH1 in non-cancerous gastric mucosa. It will be useful for characterizing the development of aberrant DNA methylation of gastric mucosa. However, the following are needed to check and to answer.

1. The studied population comprised 401 subjects, but only 286 subjects were performed the evaluation on the severity of chronic gastritis according to the updated Sydney system. How to analyze the data and get the results? What’s the relationship among the gastric mucosal inflammation, H. pylori infection and IL17A polymorphisms?

2. Please give more explanation or evidence to discuss the influence of IL17A polymorphisms on the aberrant methylations of DAPK and CDH1 in non-cancerous gastric mucosa.

Chenggong Yu

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.