Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Single nucleotide polymorphisms in thymic stromal lymphopoietin gene are not associated with allergic rhinitis susceptibility in Chinese subjects

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 14 July 2012

**Reviewer:** Denise Daley

**Reviewer’s report:**

Minor Essential Revisions: There are several areas where clarity could be improved upon for the reader.

1) If I understand the study subject description correctly subjects with AR in this study only had AR. Subjects with AR and asthma were excluded. If this is indeed the case then authors should discuss this in the discussion section as it is a major strength. the Bonyavanich paper had a major limitation as it tried to claim and independent association between TSLP and AR, but the study was confound and could not this determination as all of the study subjects had asthma. As ~80% of asthmatics have AR and TSLP is well replicated asthma susceptibility gene, determining if TSLP also associated with AR can only be done in a population which has AR but no asthma.

The current paper does just that. The lack of association may be because the gene is associated with asthma but not AR. this was not brought out in the discussion.

2) In the statistical analysis section a non-missing genotype percentage threshold was given as 75%. Is this perhaps a typo? A typical threshold would be much higher in the range of 95%. If is not a typo I strongly suggest the authors increase the threshold to 95% as there is a high correlation between call rate and gentling error rate and a 75% call rate is too low.

3) The wording of the LD analysis and Haplotype Block Structure section is confusing. I thought that the LD structure had ben evaluated in AR vs. control subjects and that there were two different blocks in the two different populations. Examining the figures, I think all subjects were used to evaluate the LD structure and the authors found two distinct LD blocks in the population. This should be clarified for the reader.

4) There are couple of areas where the syntax is bit awkward for a native english speaker and it may helpful to have an editor work with the authors to smooth out these areas.

**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, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

No competing interests