Author's response to reviews

Title: Sequence variants in oxytocin pathway genes and preterm birth: a candidate gene association study

Authors:

Jinsil Kim (jinsil-kim@uiowa.edu)
Kara J. Stirling (jursak01@gmail.com)
Margaret E. Cooper (mec9@pitt.edu)
Mario Ascoli (mario-ascoli@uiowa.edu)
Allison M. Momany (allison-momany@uiowa.edu)
Erin L. McDonald (erin-l-mcdonald@uiowa.edu)
Kelli K. Ryckman (kelli-ryckman@uiowa.edu)
Lindsey Rhea (lindsey-rhea@uiowa.edu)
Kendra L. Schaa (kendraschaa@gmail.com)
Viviana Cosentino (vivicosentino@hotmail.com)
Enrique Gadow (egadow@cemic.edu.ar)
Cesar Saleme (csaleme@colemed.com.ar)
Min Shi (shi2@niehs.nih.gov)
Mikko Hallman (mikko.hallman@oulu.fi)
Jevon Plunkett (plunkett@stanford.edu)
Kari A. Teramo (kari.teramo@hus.fi)
Louis J. Muglia (louis.muglia@vanderbilt.edu)
Bjarke Feenstra (fee@ssi.dk)
Frank Geller (fge@ssi.dk)
Heather A. Boyd (hoy@ssi.dk)
Mads Melbye (mme@ssi.dk)
Mary L. Marazita (marazita@pitt.edu)
John M. Dagle (john-dagle@uiowa.edu)
Jeffrey C. Murray (jeff-murray@uiowa.edu)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
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The Editor
BMC Medical Genetics

Dear Editor:

Attached is a copy of our manuscript entitled “Sequence variants in oxytocin pathway genes and preterm birth: a candidate gene association study” for consideration of publication in BMC Medical Genetics. This study reports extensive genetic analyses of oxytocin pathway genes to look for sequence variants contributing to preterm birth. The study used several large data sets of case and control populations generated using candidate gene association and sequencing approaches.

We identified a collection of variants that in the aggregate appeared to make some contribution to preterm birth. In addition, we carried out functional analysis on a subset of the variants to assess the importance of the variants in the etiology of the disease. To our knowledge, this work is the first large-scale sequencing study conducted in conjunction with functional analysis to examine the role of the oxytocin pathway genes in preterm birth. We believe that our work will be invaluable to investigators in continuing a deeper genetic as well as functional investigation into this critical pathway.

We suggest that following referees could provide expert and impartial reviews:

(1) Ronald Goldberg (Duke University)  ronald.goldberg@duke.edu
(2) Hyagriv Simhan (University of Pittsburgh)  hsimhan@mwri.magee.edu
(3) Jerome Strauss (Virginia Commonwealth University)  jfstrauss@vcu.edu
(4) Ronald Wapner (Columbia University)  rw2191@columbia.edu

We thank you for the opportunity to submit this manuscript and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

Jeffrey C. Murray, MD
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Epidemiology and Biological Sciences
University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine
500 Newton Road, 2182 ML, Iowa City, IA 52242-1181
319-335-6897 phone; 319-335-6970 fax; e-mail: jeff-murray@uiowa.edu