Author's response to reviews

Title: A recall-by-genotype study of CHRNA5-A3-B4 genotype, cotinine and smoking topography: Study protocol

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Version: 2 Date: 3 December 2013

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Dr Tim Sands,

Re: A Recall-by-Genotype Study of CHRNA5-A3-B4 Genotype, Cotinine and Smoking Topography: Study Protocol

I am delighted to attach our submission to the *BMC Medical Genetics* Study Protocols series.

This manuscript, entitled “A Recall-by-Genotype Study of CHRNA5-A3-B4 Genotype, Cotinine and Smoking Topography: Study Protocol”, describes a study which will extend our understanding of the biological basis of inter-individual variability in heaviness of smoking, and therefore in exposure to smoking-related toxins.

The novel recall-by-genotype approach we will use is efficient, maximising statistical power, and enables the collection of extremely precise phenotypic data that are impractical to collect in a larger sample. The methods described within this protocol also hold the potential for wider application in the field of molecular genetics.

Full ethics approval for this study has been granted by the Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children (ALSPAC) Ethics and Law Committee, and the relevant documentation has been forwarded to BMCSeriesEditorial@biomedcentral.com.

Funding for this study will be provided by the Oak Foundation (Research Fellowship to JJW) and the MRC Integrative Epidemiology Unit, recently established at the University of Bristol.

Recruitment for the study described is currently in progress. Testing is due to commence in January 2014.

This protocol has not been published or submitted elsewhere. The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare.

We look forward to hearing from you regarding this submission.

Yours sincerely,

Jennifer Ware

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