Author's response to reviews

Title: Genetic studies of the Roma (Gypsies): a review

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Dear Emma,

Thankyou for accepting our revised version of the manuscript [Genetic Studies of the Roma (Gypsies) a review]. We appreciated the reviewers' comments and have addressed them as follows. We have also made a couple of minor corrections.

1. In response to editorial requests we have moved the methods section to follow the introduction and structured the abstract into 'background', 'results' and 'conclusions''

2. Martin McKee suggests placing the text accompanying figures 2 and 3 in the body of the paper. However, we believe that these specific details pertain only to the figures and do not fit into the general text.

3. We have addressed Evelyne Heyer's suggestions as follows:

   >Page 3, "an average European country" --> "a small European country"?
   We prefer "average" as small might mean countries such as Lichtenstein and Luxemburg.

   >Page 5, second paragraph, sentence "The comparisons (figure 2, Table 1)
provide a general indication that most of the Roma are ..."

   We have made this change.

   >Page 6, give abbreviation of disorders (CCFDN, ITD)

   We have given these abbreviations.

   >Page 6, last paragraph, I do not like "common conditions", but I have no alternative sentence.

   We have changed this to "common monogenic conditions"

   >Page 8,second paragraph (iii) : the authors refer to "compound heterozygous"
No, we are talking about disorders that are phenotypically similar but have different genetic aetiologies. The following sentence states how this phenomenon is an important consideration for the purposes of diagnoses. We have not changed these sentences.

>Page 13, I do not like the last part of the sentence: "in exchange for valuable biological sentence". I do not see why they should be an exchange, we could imagine just to help the population without any exchange.
We agree and have deleted this part of the sentence.

>Table 1: add the sample size when available
We have added the sample sizes.

>Figure 2: I have trouble seeing the bootstrap values
We have increased the font.

4. We have made two other minor changes.

We have changed the reference in the text accompanying table 1 from "Fig 1" to "figure 2". We have added the sample sizes for each population to the text accompanying figure 2.

Thankyou very much,

Sincerely,

David Gresham

for Luba Kalaydjieva