Author's response to reviews

Title: Effect of Human Leukocyte Antigen Heterozygosity on Infectious Disease Outcome: The Need for Allele-Specific Measures

Authors:

Prof Marc Lipsitch (mlipsitc@hsph.harvard.edu)
Carl T Bergstrom (cbergst@u.washington.edu)
Rustom Antia (rantia@biology.emory.edu)

Version: 2 Date: 25 Dec 2002

We have made changes to the manuscript to reflect the reviewer's comments, which were very helpful. Specifically

Reviewer: Wayne Potts

Page 2 comment #1: Lewontin reference. This point is well taken. Our reference to the Lewontin MS had been more appropriate and became inappropriate in the version of the manuscript that was submitted, due to an error in editing by the first author. In light of Dr. Potts' comments, the reference has been removed as not central to the point of the paper.

Page 2, comment #2: animal data. The reviewer's points are again well taken, and prompted us to revise our appraisal of the animal data. The discussion on pp. 12-13 is now completely rewritten to reflect the reviewer's points.

Page 2, comment #3: citations. This misunderstanding is pervasive in the literature, and individual citations would seem to be inflammatory but not useful, since the point in question is one of interpretation rather than data. Therefore we have not included specific citations in this sentence.

Reviewer: Paul Schliekelman. We have incorporated the discretionary revision suggested in the Discussion, p. 12. We have also changed the typo identified by the reviewer.