Dear editor,

Once again I am extremely grateful to the reviewers, they not only gave us constructive and helpful comments, but they contributed to the insight of the analysis. We addressed all the comments suggested by Professor Satoshi Horai and believed the revised paper is now ready for publication.

Thank you.
Regards

Answers to Reviewer's report
Title: Association of HLA Class I with Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus Infection
Authors: Prof Marie Lin (marilin@ms2.mmh.org.tw) et al.
Version: Date: 3 15 Jul 2003
Reviewer: Satoshi Horai

I. $P_c$-values were used to show significance and its use was explained more clearly in "statistical analysis". It is hoped that the reader will realize that only significant $P_c$-values are used to draw the conclusion of the article.

II. B*56 and B*39 were only reported in the result section. In the discussion, their association to SARS was only presented as suggestive and requiring further study. They were not discussed extensively.

III. This passage of the discussion was revised. HLA-B1301 was discussed but we did not emphasized protection of HLA-B*1301 against SARS infection.

IV. To alleviate this incompatibility, the importance of the association of HLA-B*1301 was minimized in the discussion section, and the wording "the Taiwan indigenous people may not contain any factor associated with SARS" was changed to ".....any factors favouring SARS infection".

V. 1) All parts of the article, including Abstract and Discussion were modified as suggested.
2) References were amended, and reference 17 was changed accordingly.
3) The need for further independent studies was transferred to the conclusion part of the Abstract and the typing error done on the P-value was corrected to 0.01.