Reviewer's report

Title: Why the short alleles (<35 repeats) of the 3’APOB-VNTR polymorphism are rare in centenarians? A possible answer given by the study of the allele-average effect on lipidemic parameters.

Version: 2 Date: 2 February 2004

Reviewer: Francesco Panza

Reviewer's report:

General

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)
The Authors should not omit in presentation some parameters evaluated in their analysis because they could be misleading for the reader. They should be all important in the same if the Authors decide to use them. The Authors should report at least the BMI mean value of their study population.

The Authors categorized serum level of HDL-C and LDL-C on the basis of the average serum levels of the same parameters in adult Southern Italian men who were not affected by any clinically manifest pathology. They should indicate reference for these cut-off points.

What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

None