Reviewer's report

Title: Evaluation of the toll-like receptor 6 Ser249Pro polymorphism in patients with asthma, atopic dermatitis and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

Version: 1 Date: 30 June 2005

Reviewer: Scott Weiss

Reviewer's report:

I believe that the authors have addressed all of the criticisms raised by the reviewers and that the manuscript is much improved. I do think that it would be worthwhile including a comment in the middle paragraph on Page 7 suggesting that the results may be due to linkage disequilibrium, not to the specific functional variation. The authors are hinting at this but they don't say so directly.

I also believe that the arguments provided by the authors that suggests that adult controls are appropriate for adult asthma are specious, while phenotyped children with similar observation time would be the most appropriate control group. Adult, non-asthmatics may be different from childhood non-asthmatics and may simply not be the most appropriate control group, but there is nothing that can be done about this particularly, and I think that the authors have done a good job in answering all of the other criticisms noted by all three reviewers in the previous review.

I would now say that this paper is acceptable for publication.

What next?: Accept without revision

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.