Reviewer's report

Title: Triglyceride altering polymorphisms of the ApoAV gene have very different allele frequencies in India compared to Europeans

Version: 1 Date: 10 July 2006

Reviewer: Jaroslav Hubacek

Reviewer's report:

General
The manuscript is clearly written, used methods are adequate and the numbers of analyzed individuals are sufficient to answer the analyzed question.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
1/ For so far published papers about APOA5 and TG levels, it was usual to use mean ± s.e. or Â± s.d. Using geometric means and 95% CI/interquartile range, makes comparison of the results between different population impossible.
2/ You have data about cholesterol (total-, LDL-, HDL-) levels as well â€” have you analyzed, if there are some associations also with these characteristics?

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
1/ You mention, that TG levels are high in your population â€” but level ~ 1 mmol/L (table 1) is much lower, than in most so far published studies. Could you provide some more detailed additional data?
2/ Use â€œethnicâ€ instead of â€œracialâ€, use â€œCaucasianâ€ instead of â€œNorth Europeanâ€. Additionally, the references are not used correctly â€” ref 4 - did not analyzed North European population, but American Caucasians, ref 11 and 18 have analyzed Singapore Indians and Japaneseâ€”

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)
1/ Use better â€œless common alleleâ€ than â€œrare alleleâ€, especially, if this one has the population frequency of 20%
2/ Be consistent in description of p values, use in all cases < or =
3/ In table 1, at least % of smokers could be included, also insulin and glucose levels, as they are mentioned in table 4.
4/ I can imagine that in India, the dietary habits (affecting plasma lipid levels) will be different from those in UK â€” could you include some information at least in discussion?
5/ I would suggest changing a title.

What next?: Accept after minor essential 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:
I declare that I have no competing interests