Reviewer's report

Title: CT60 genotype does not affect CTLA-4 isoform expression despite association to autoimmune disease in northern Sweden

Version: 2 Date: 8 September 2006
Reviewer: Jin-Xiong She

Reviewer's report:

General
The data presented in this report are primarily of confirmatory nature. However, the results are of some interest to the scientific community.

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

The major concern is on the genetic association studies. It is not acceptable to combine two different diseases into one category. The reason for combining T1D and AITD is because of the small sample size. The authors should increase the sample size for both diseases if they wish to present the association data.

The explanation of higher T1D frequency in Sweden by the higher CTLA4 genotype frequency is not really justified. This is just a correlation.

Presentation of the association data in Table 1 is very misleading. Indeed, the so called "reference" genotype is different between cases and controls.

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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)

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory 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