Author’s response to reviews

Title: The D9N, N291S and S447X variants in the lipoprotein lipase (LPL) gene are not associated with type III hyperlipidemia.

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Sir,

Enclosed is a copy of the re-revised manuscript together with our replies to the referees criticisms.

The specific suggestions have been incorporated as detailed under the individual referees.

Response to Referees 2

Drs Hegel, Hoffmann and Zhang
No revision required

Dr Hubacek
The repeated sentence has been deleted.

Dr Julien
Major Compulsory Revisions

Paragraph 1
To simplify the study and avoid confusion we have only included probands from whom we have S447X genotype data. Since this is based solely on the availability of DNA there is no systematic bias concerning HLP and thus there is no pre-selection of patients which we agree would invalidate the study. The reduced number of probands does not affect the conclusions of the study. A sentence has been added to Materials and Methods describing therapy of the patients.

Paragraph 2
The point that although LPL variants do not play a role at the population level nevertheless in individuals with APOE 2/2 genotype who are carriers of an LPL variant they may do so is a good one and we have included a sentence in the discussion making this clear.

Paragraph 3
We thank Dr Julien for bringing our attention to the paper of Blom et al. We have calculated the ApoB/TC ratios for the APOE 2/2 patients and have incorporated this information into the manuscript.

Minor essential revision

This information has been added to the Materials and Methods section.

We thank the referees for their helpful criticisms.

Yours faithfully

Dr David Evans