Reviewer’s report

Title: MRPS18CP2 alleles and DEFA3 absence as putative chromosome 8p23.1 modifiers of hearing loss due to mtDNA mutation A1555G in the 12S rRNA gene

Version: 2 Date: 18 November 2007

Reviewer: Michio Hirano

Reviewer’s report:

General
Ballana and colleagues have performed careful genetic analyses of three potential nuclear modifier elements in the chromosome 8p23.1 locus associated with expression of deafness due to A1555G mtDNA mutation. The authors have addressed criticisms raised in the prior review.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
None

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
None

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)
“DEFA3 absence” is awkward and “absence of DEFA3” may be preferable.

What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.