Author's response to reviews

Title: Heritability of Cardiovascular Risk Factors in a Brazilian Population: Baependi Heart Study

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Melissa Norton
Editor-in-Chief,
BMC Medical Genetics

Please find attached a copy of the second revised version of the manuscript entitled “Heritability of Cardiovascular Risk Factors in a Brazilian Population: Baependi Heart Study” that we would like to re-submit for publication as an original article in *BMC Medical Genetics*.

This manuscript is the first manuscript of a research project aimed at the mapping of genetic risk factors for cardiovascular traits in the Brazilian population. We appreciate the suggestions made by reviewers and have carefully considered each one of them in this new version of our manuscript. In addition, there is a point-by-point description of the changes made and commentaries on reviewers' suggestions.

We are confident on the improved status of this new version.

We hope this information will be interesting to *BMC Medical Genetics* readers.

Thank you very much in advance for your kind attention,

Best regards,

Alexandre Pereira
Heart Institute, University of São Paulo Medical School, Brazil
Reviewer 1:

No further revisions required.
Reviewer 2:

All minor revisions were made according to this reviewer’s suggestions.
Reviewer 3:

We have adopted the term a city in a rural area to characterize the city where the study was conducted.

We believe that conducting gene mapping studies in admixed populations might be advantageous secondary to the possibility of finding genetic markers associated with a particular trait in a smaller linkage disequilibrium block. In this scenario fine-mapping of QTLs may prove to be more successful then identifying genetic determinants in populations were LD blocks span a significantly higher genomic interval. This idea was incorporated in the final version of the manuscript as a brief comment in the Discussion section.

References in Table 4 were corrected.
Reviewer 4:

No further revisions required.