Reviewer's report

Title: Complex Aetiology of an Apparently Mendelian Form of Mental Retardation

Version: 1 Date: 30 November 2007

Reviewer: André Hanauer

Reviewer's report:

The authors report a comprehensive linkage-wide genome analysis with 500 microsatellite markers in a 24 members of a family in which segregates mental retardation. The segregation of the disease does not conform to a simple mode of transmission. They have also performed a copy number analysis using an Affimetrix 250K SNP chip.

The study is extensive and well conducted. The conclusion seems adequate. There are few errors to correct: for example in the patient and method section, hydrohyhippuric should be corrected to hydroxyhippuric.

In Supplement 2, I wonder what are the Mru individuals (needs a legend)?

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: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

No to all questions