Author's response to reviews

Title: Methylation of class II transactivator gene promoter IV is not associated with susceptibility to Multiple Sclerosis

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Robin,

Thank you for your e-mail, detailing the comments from the reviewers.

We thank the reviewers for their helpful and constructive comments and respond to their comments in turn (our responses are italicized).

Reviewer 1:

Please explain the faint bands observable in Figure 2 lane 5 (unmethylated DNA/methylated primers)? Is there a cycle issue in the PCR as one would expect to see no band. I would also like an explanation for the band which lies between lane 1 and lane 2 (methylated DNA/unmethylated primers). As the dan is commercially generated one would not expect to see amplification, and so I would suggest that either the number of PCR cycles be reduced, or the annealing temperature increased to remove these apparent "false" positives. I would suggest redoing the Figure, but with less cycles (as clearly the amplification will occur in the expected samples lanes 1, 6).

_The reason for these bands is purely bad gel loading by a graduate student and we apologize for this. Other gels did not show any faint banding but we do not have those gel pictures unfortunately and as we do not have the samples readily available we can not produce one quickly. We can add a note to this effect or not include the figure. We apologize for not being able to do better on this issue._

Please include a statement about consent obtained from the subjects of your study in the methods section of the manuscript.

_We have done this._

We would be grateful if the Journal would consider the manuscript in light of the points raised above.
We look forward to hearing from you,

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