Reviewer's report

Title: Design Considerations in a Study of Linkage for Susceptibility Loci in Cancer

Version: 2 Date: 9 March 2008

Reviewer: Johanna Skoglund

Reviewer's report:

This is a well-written manuscript where the authors by computational simulations have tried to assess the impact of study design factors on relative efficiency for a sib-pair study for colorectal cancer susceptibility loci. Some issues for the authors to address are detailed below.

- Discretionary Revisions (which are recommendations for improvement but which the author can choose to ignore)

1. The manuscript is long and very extensive. The Methods and Discussion could be made shorter. Parts of what is included in Methods, for example statistical calculations, could be presented as supplemental material.

- Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

1. The authors are referring to web-links for full results summary. These links are not working and need to be updated. Using web-links in this format is not optional for future readers since these data may not be obtainable in near future.

2. The title is somewhat misleading and should be more specific. It should be stated in the title that this is a study on design considerations for sib-pair studies.

3. It is not well described what statistical software are used for the statistical calculations.

4. Some spelling corrections need to be done.

- Major Compulsory Revisions (which the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

None

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable
**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests