Reviewer’s report

Title: 'Fat mass and obesity associated' gene (FTO): no significant association of variant rs9939609 with weight loss in a lifestyle intervention and lipid metabolism markers in German obese children and adolescents

Version: 1 Date: 4 June 2008

Reviewer: emanuele miraglia del giudice

Reviewer's report:

The paper is interesting, dealing with an argument, i.e.; the potential involvement of FTO gene in the weight loss of obese children taking part in an obesity intervention program, which appears of interest given the importance of this gene in the predisposition toward both childhood and adulthood obesity.

I have only a few minor recommendations:

1- In the Methods section, please identify the statistical software package used to analyze the data (Stat View, SAS etc.). Also include the version, if appropriate.

2- One of the problems with any dietary program is compliance. The authors did not mention any approches to take this problem nor did they mention any recording of the subjects food intake.

3- Physical activity was not taken into account. This is one variable that should have been controlled as this may affect the outcome of the study.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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.