Reviewer's report

Title: Linkage Disequilibrium Analysis Reveals an Albuminuria Risk Haplotype Containing Three Missense Mutations in the Cubilin Gene with Striking Differences Among European and African Ancestry Populations

Version: 2 Date: 29 March 2012

Reviewer: Carsten C Böger

Reviewer's report:

The authors have analyzed the genetic architecture of the region surrounding a SNP in the CUBN gene (rs1801239), which has previously been identified by GWAS meta-analysis to be associated with albuminuria in general population samples.

The approach is interesting, but the novelty of the provided data is not apparent. The authors have simply looked up SNPs in LD (defined as r2>0.5) with rs1801239 in the publicly available 1000G data sets (CEU and YRI). The differences in allele frequencies between CEU and YRI in the SNPs queried (and thus the haplotype structure) are not surprising; this information is not novel since apart from being common place knowledge it is publicly available and published. The only data that is produced from own samples are from genotyping 2 SNPs in 26 African American individuals, but this data is not shown.

At best, this manuscript could be condensed to a very brief letter or technical note.

I do not agree with the conclusion made by the authors that their data could be used for "functional risk causation" analyses in future albuminuria association studies. An example for correct phrasing could be: "Future albuminuria association studies should include fine-mapping of regions identified by GWAS to pinpoint potentially functional variants explaining the variance in albuminuria observed. Such fine-mapping could include use of 1000G data and targeted sequencing".

The paper should be edited to improve grammatical errors.

Level of interest: An article of insufficient interest to warrant publication in a scientific/medical journal

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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.