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: 5 Date: 13 August 2012

Reviewer: John O'Toole

Reviewer's report:

Minor Essential revisions:

1) The third paragraph of the results/discussion section mentions that only the p.Ile2984Val was tested in Boger et al. paper and therefore "cannot be used to determine which of the missense mutations are more likely to be functional". Probably should state here, "which of the missense mutations has the strongest statistical association."

2) Fourth paragraph of results/discussion is confusing. First sentence states "if this not is the causative mutation...we may expect the percentage of UACR variance explained by this variant...to be higher." I would have expected it to be lower if its not causal, unless the authors mean to say that another nearby untyped variant is actually causal and explains the variance. If so then this should be more clearly stated. I understand the remainder of the paragraph to be an example of the difference in variance that might be expected if a nearby untyped variant were causal. This also should be clearly stated to be an example and not a result of a demonstrated association in the African population.

3) Introduction, 3rd paragraph, 1st sentence, typo--convention for variant Ile2984Val, should be p.Ile2984Val

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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'