Reviewer's report

Title: Whole genome methylation array analysis reveals new aspects in Balkan Endemic Nephropathy etiology

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Reviewer: Karol Bomsztyk

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Staneva et.al. describe differential methylation in peripheral blood from patients with Balkan Nephropathy. The results are potentially interesting but there are a number of issues that need to be addressed.

Major:
1. The finding of the hypomethylated CpG in the promoters of three genes needs to be confirmed by another method at least in randomly pulled patient and control samples. For example- MeDIP-qPCR or methyl-light.
2. RT-PCR assay needs to be done, at least in randomly selected samples, to show whether or not the hypomethylation of CpGs has functional consequences.
3. It would be better to show the data in graph (pie) form rather than tables.
4. No details are given about the sample used- were they cells, plasma or serum.

Minor
1. There are grammatical errors to be corrected

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

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

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.