Reviewer’s report

Title: The IgA nephropathy Biobank. An important starting point for the genetic dissection of a complex trait

Version: 1 Date: 18 September 2005

Reviewer: Masanobu Miyazaki

Reviewer’s report:

General
This manuscript described that the authors established a biobank of IgAN in European three countries, such as Italy, Greece and Germany. It is the first report establishing DNA bank from the patients of IgAN, their family member and healthy adults. Although it is an interesting paper, several points remain to be considered.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
1. This project does not clarify what kind of genes, biological parameters and immunological indices will be examined using DNA and plasma from the patients and relatives. The details regarding the projects should be shown to the patients and their family members when they are informed. Although the authors described “the DNA would be used only for the present project” (page 12, line 10-11), the details are not described in the present manuscript.
2. Is not a subject with only proteinuria without renal biopsy enrolled to this project? The authors described that subjects with persistent microhamaturia without biopsy are categorized as “probably affected IgAN” (page 7, line23).
3. From the point of protecting the data base of the patients and their relatives, who are given a valid and personal password? Furthermore, who has responsibility of constructing and keeping the whole data base?

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. Although the definition of “normal subjects” was no urinary abnormalities or renal diseases (page 12, line 13), is it enough? Are diabetes mellitus, hypertension and metabolic syndrome excluded?

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests' below.