Reviewer's report

**Title:** Evidence for a Heritable Predisposition to Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 7 March 2011

**Reviewer:** RH Belmaker

**Reviewer's report:**

This is a well written and interesting paper at a high epidemiological level looking at a data bank study of chronic fatigue syndrome in families with large and well documented genealogies in Utah. It is publishable and adds to knowledge. However, I think the basic concept of the heritability of this disorder has been better demonstrated in twin studies that are quoted in the paper. I think the paper should be called “Evidence for familial predisposition…” rather than a heritable predisposition since these genealogical studies cannot distinguish between heritability and familiality. The authors tried to argue this point in a short paragraph in the discussion which is not convincing in my view. I therefore think throughout the paper this should be discussed as familiality and not heritability. This does not detract from the fact that identification of such interesting large genealogies could facilitate both genetic research and other approaches to the study of familiality.

The study is well written, the table and figure are good and I have no other specific changes and I recommend publication.

**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