Reviewer’s report

Title: Toll-Like Receptor (TLR) and Nucleosome-binding Oligomerization Domain (NOD) gene polymorphisms and endometrial cancer risk

Version: 1 Date: 17 March 2010

Reviewer: Melissa Southey

Reviewer’s report:

The report of Ashton et al., is a very small case control study of endometrial cancer (191 cases and 291 controls). Reports of this size make a very limited contribution to the field – this has been clearly demonstrated in many settings throughout the GWAS and post GWAS eras. However, reports that generate hypotheses, especially in the context of “not so common” diseases (such as endometrial cancer) have a valid place in the literature.

• Minor Essential Revisions

The addition of the last 2 rows in table 1 is unnecessary/inappropriate. Perhaps added and highlighted as it details the only positive finding (before correction for multiple testing) but listed alone the data provides very little perspective to the reader. The information should remain in the text where the authors provide the detail that the finding does not remain significant after correction for multiple testing.

Table 2 displays results that come from the analysis of very small subgroups (cases=2 and controls=21) and although very appropriate to report in the literature the size of the subgroups and the appropriate cautions about over interpretation should be very clearly presented in the text. The discussion could be improved in this regard.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests