Reviewer's report

Title: Assessment of the Toll-like receptor 4 Asp299gly, thr399Ile and Interleukin-8 -251 polymorphisms in the risk for the development of distal gastric cancer

Version: 1 Date: 16 November 2006

Reviewer: Stephan Hellmig

Reviewer's report:

General
1. The selection of TLR4 and IL-8 SNPs seems to be arbitrary. There is no link between these two molecules. The authors should focus on one gene!
2. Asp299Gly and Thr399Ile of TLR4 are known to be in nearly complete LD. Thus, it does not make sense to genotype both SNPs.
3. The frequency of the rare allele of Asp299Gly and Thr399Ile is known to be around 10%. The numbers of the PUD and AG+IM in table 1 are too small to serve as controls.
4. The only control group that should be used are H.pylori infected patients without cancer (n=191).

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

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: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.