Reviewer’s report

Title: Functional serotonin transporter gene polymorphisms and anxiety personality traits: new study and meta-analysis on a psychiatrically healthy population.

Version: 1 Date: 23 September 2010

Reviewer: Leanne Williams

Reviewer’s report:

This study investigates the association between 5-HTT-LPR short allele and anxiety traits (assessed by harm avoidance) in 229 healthy subjects and 38 with a lifetime history of disorder. A meta-analysis of this association in previous studies is included.

The conclusion is made that there is an association in healthy but not in disorder. This conclusion is not well supported by the data, given the very much smaller number of subjects with a disorder. It is just as feasible that the lack of association reflects the lack of power in the small sample of 38.

There is also a lack of information about current diagnostic status of this sample.

Replication of short allele associations is needed. It would be valuable for the authors to include at least as large a sample of clinical patients to test their claim.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests