Reviewer's report

**Title:** Prevalence of asthma and allergies in the Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot communities in Cyprus: a bi-communal cross-sectional study.

**Version:** 2 **Date:** 26 November 2012

**Reviewer:** Bulent Karadag

**Reviewer's report:**

Thank you for submitting this interesting and unique manuscript investigating the allergic symptoms on two communities sharing a common past and culture with a different genetic background and lifestyle.

**Major Revisions**

1. **Methods:**
   In terms of investigating the effect of possible confounding factors, it might be interesting to include all variables such as doctor diagnosis of asthma, etc. In contrast to lower rate of parental history of allergy, the prevalences of allergic symptoms were higher T/C community. So including the diagnosis of allergy and lifetime asthma and allergic symptoms would strengthen the findings.

2. Another interesting point is the looking at the difference of the prevalence of atopic disorders among the Cypriot and the immigrant groups. These data may also be presented in the Results.

3. In terms of developing logistic regression models, which methods were used (stepwise, etc.)?

4. It seems that different risk factors play role in G/C and T/C communities. #t may also be presented separately to understand the differences in both communities.

5. Limitations may be discussed at the 2nd or 3rd paragraph of the Discussion. Although the authors think that the lower participation rate is not problematic in G/C group, due to the cultural differences it might result a lower participation of allergic children into the study.

6. Also the different findings in age groups should be discussed.

**Minor Revisions**

Table 5 can be omitted.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**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.