Reviewer's report

Title: Genetic variants in ADAM33 are associated with airway inflammation and lung function in COPD

Version: 1 Date: 1 July 2014

Reviewer: AN SOO JANG

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Major Compulsory Comments:
1) Should reveal Gold stage of all COPD patients, stable or unstable.
2) What was the sputum cell differentials including total cells, macrophage, neutrophils, lymphocyte, and eosinophils between COPD and controls? Should be showed in the table.
3) When the authors obtain peripheral blood and sputum cells, and pulmonary function stable or unstable status? How many patients do obtain sputum and blood? Should reveal number and quality.
4) What is the level of cytokines IL-8, TNF-A and VEGF between COPD and controls? Should be showed in the table.

Minor essential revisions

Conclusion you include in Asian people in conclusion.

In Discussion You mentioned" Our study showed that the SNP T1 is significantly associated with macrophage and T2 is significantly associated with total cells in sputum of patients with COPD, Q-1 was significantly associated with IL-8, TNF-A and VEGF in sputum of COPD”.

Why do just macrophage and lymphocytes be associated with COPD except neutrophils and eosinophils? Should explain about that.

What is the clinical relevance that Haplotypes of ADMA33 related to airway inflammation and pulmonary function? How to apply this data in clinical filed?

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

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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

Declaration of competing interests:
I have no conflict of interests with this study.