Reviewer's report

Title: Text-mining applied to autoimmune disease research: The Sjogren's Syndrome Knowledge Base.

Version: 1 Date: 28 November 2011

Reviewer: Atsushi Hijikata

Reviewer's report:

This paper written by Gorr et al. describes knowledge-base of Sjogren's syndrome, one of the most common tissue-specific autoimmune disease in the U.S.

The authors manually curated published literature and extracted genes/proteins likely to be involved in the disease and constructed a web interface to display the same.

The statistical analysis performed by the authors shows an obvious correlation between the set of genes with previous microarray studies, and the set of genes/proteins certainly associated with this disease whereas experimental verification should be required. This web resource would be useful for the clinical researchers studying Sjogren's syndrome.

I have some recommendations about the web interface as described below:

Minor Essential Revisions:
1) The web interface is simple enough but users may need some help to use it, e.g. legends for each column of the gene/protein table are missing.
2) 'Human accession' column does not need since all of the entries have no data in the same column.
3) The author should explain what users can do by login from the 'Login' tab.
4) Links to KEGG pathways should be added in the detail page of each entry because the authors shows the genes/proteins clearly enriched some particular KEGG pathways.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.