Author's response to reviews

Title: HLA class II allele polymorphism may influence susceptibility to adult dermatomyositis and polymyositis in a Han Chinese population

Authors:

Xiang Gao (gxtaiyi@163.com)
Lei Han (hanleiharry1@126.com)
Lan Yuan (328763824@qq.com)
Yongchen Yang (yangyongchen@aliyun.com)
Guimei Guo (chenguoquime@126.com)
Hengjuan Sun (sunhengjuan@aliyun.com)
Ling Lu (huashanlyling@sina.com)
Liming Bao (lbaogene@yahoo.com)

Version: 5 Date: 15 May 2014

Author's response to reviews: see over
May 15, 2014

Dear Editorial Office Staff:

We would like to thank the reviewers and editors for their comments and suggestions on the manuscript. The manuscript has been amended according to the recommendations. The changes and our responses to the reviewer's comments are listed as follow:

Reviewer 1

The changes introduced into the manuscript have improved the overall presentation. There are some further minor essential revisions however which I recommend should be included. They are:

1. In the abstract and again in the second para of the Background reference is made to “…polymorphisms in 91 adult DM and PM patients…….”. It would be more informative to state “…polymorphisms in 71 adult DM and 20 PM patients….”

2. Page 7 line 5. Since reference is made to the fact that DQA1*0104 is increased in DM it would be preferable to replace “…and the risk of myositis.” With “…and the risk of DM.”

3. First line of page 10. The 8.1 haplotype as defined includes HLA-B8 and is a Caucasian haplotype. I would be surprised if it has been seen at all in the population studied. However DRB1*03-DQA1*05-DQB1*02 does occur on other extended haplotypes and therefore it would be more accurate to state “DRB1*03-DQA1*05-DQB1*02 is not a major haplotype in our cohort…”

4. Page 10 last line reference should be “Chinoy and colleagues”

5. Page 11 first line ‘sizes” should be “size”

6. 3rd last line of conclusions. Should be HLA-DRB1*04 and HLA-DRB1*12 (D has been left out).

Authors’ response:
We have made all the changes suggested by the reviewer to the manuscript.

The manuscript has been edited by native English-speaking medical professionals to improve the language.

We are grateful to the reviewers and editors for their constructive comments and suggestions on the manuscript.

Please feel free to let us know if you have questions.
Sincerely,

Liming Bao, MD, PhD  
Department of Pathology  
Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center  
Geisel School of Medicine  
Dartmouth College  
One Medical Center Drive  
Lebanon, NH 03756  
USA  

Tel: 603-650-7489  
Fax: 603-650-7773  
Email: Liming.Bao@Dartmouth.edu