Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 1 Date: 1 January 2014

Reviewer: Ingrid Lundberg

Reviewer’s report:

Compulsory revision

The manuscript has a major limitation that refers to the small patient sample size. The differences presented did not reach significance after Bonferroni corrections, further emphasizing this problem. As these are rare disease entities collaborations with several centers is often needed for genetic studies.

There are also some other limitations that need to be addressed

• For diagnosis Bohan and Peter criteria were used. Did the authors accept possible, probable and definite diagnosis?
• Interstitial lung disease was checked for, how was this defined.
• Which tests were used for autoantibody detection?
• It may be worthwhile to test your sera using immunoprecipitation or some other novel test to pick up some of the newly identified autoantibodies that are more prevalent in DM.

Level of interest: An article of insufficient interest to warrant publication in a scientific/medical journal

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

No conflict