Reviewer's report

Title: Association of toll-interacting protein gene polymorphisms with atopic dermatitis

Version: 2 Date: 7 March 2007

Reviewer: Varghese George

Reviewer's report:

General
I agree with the second reviewer that adding more SNPs from HapMap would have improved the manuscript. However, based on the explanation given by the authors I don't consider it as essential and critical for the publication of the manuscript. I believe that it has sufficient merit in its present form.

There is nothing magical about p-values reaching any predetermined significance level for declaring statistical significance. There is virtually no difference in evidence between p-value of 0.0098 vs. p-value of 0.0102. It makes absolutely no sense in declaring significance in the first case while concluding "no evidence" in the second. Conclusions should be based on scientific grounds rather than perceived magical importance of p-values. Based on a p-value of 0.0102, it is perfectly OK to conclude that the results are marginally significant. The only real confirmation of evidence is by independent replication of the results.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
None

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
None

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept without revision

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.