Reviewer’s report

Title: Combined examination of sequence and copy number variations in human deafness genes better explained the cause of genetic deafness

Version: 4  Date: 10 July 2014

Reviewer: David J Lim

Reviewer’s report:

Major Compulsory Revisions: None

Minor Essential Revisions:
1. Under Patient History and physical/laboratory examination under "Methods", fourth line from the top in the first paragraph, patients with history of meningitis (particularly Haemophilus influenza type b or Hib) and maternal CMV, if they are known, should be added in the exclusion criteria.

2. Under NGS protocol and data analysis, in page 7, line 159, the statement "Information in this database was collected from Human Genome Mutation Database (HGMD), data on unpublished mutation and normal hearing control NGS data the authors, and consensus predication....". This sentence is incomprensible as written. It needs to rewritten or rephrase it to be clearly understood.

"Minor Issues not for publication":
1. Under "NGS protocol and data analysis, in third paragraph (line 156, page 7), (coverage#20..., need a space after coverage.
2. Under the same paragraph as above, highly-likely (page 7, line 165). I don't think hyphon is needed here.
3. "highlylikely" in page 15, line 344, add a space between highly and likely.
4. In page 7, line 167, please check (#0.005).
5. In page 13, line 297, "The highincidence...", add space between two words.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

No conflict