Reviewer's report

Title: A IGF-I promoter polymorphism modifies the relationship between birth weight and risk factors for cardiovascular disease and diabetes at age 36

Version: 1 Date: 1 March 2005

Reviewer: Ian N Day

Reviewer's report:

General

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

Basis for the model tested needs clarification. Why should the 192 and 194 alleles have a different effect from both longer and shorter alleles on promoter function? A much clearer exposition of the functional biology would be helpful, in relation to the epidemiological observations. In view of this uncertainty, it would be much better if the analysis were extended also to a complete set of SNP haplotypes, unless there is a compelling functional case that the promoter polymorphism alone is functional.

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

There seem to be two different front pages to the manuscript, and two different titles. Both titles contain genetic or grammatical flaws.

Student's t-tst mislabelled (T) in abstract

Tag Gold p7

failure to use italics for gene name in some places in text

authors should cite the failed replication response to reference 13 - Day et al, Lancet.2002 360:945

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

the male-specificity of the findings is notable and it may be of interest to the authors that the same has been observed for GH, upstream of IGF1 (JCEM 2004 89:5569)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

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

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests