Reviewer's report

Title: Dietary intake in the Personalized Medicine Research Project: a resource for studies of gene-diet interaction

Version: 1 Date: 17 September 2010

Reviewer: Qi Dai

Reviewer's report:

In the manuscript, the authors describe the dietary component in the Personalized Medicine Research Project (PMRP). Further, the authors have presented some interesting results of dietary intakes and supplementation use by smoking status, particularly APOE4 genotype. The comments are as follow.

Minor Essential Revisions

1) The NCI 124-item Diet History Questionnaire was used to obtain usual dietary intakes. Are any validation studies being conducted or planned within the PMRP population to compare dietary intakes from the FFQ with that from 24-hour recalls and/or biomarkers?

2) The response rate is good (62.8%) to the mailed questionnaire. Have the authors collected any information for those who did not respond? If so, some of the available demographic information for those who did not respond can be compared to those who responded in Table 1.

3) In table 2, except for females aged 60 and over, a significant higher percentage of women took magnesium than calcium. Is this because the study population of the PMRP consumed significantly higher dietary calcium? What are the sources for supplement use of magnesium? If multivitamin use is considered a source for magnesium, it also contains calcium.

4) On page 12, line 4-5, both “have” and “had” were used in the same sentence.

Discretionary Revisions

5) In the fourth paragraph of the Results section (page 9), move “ATE CSFII is referring to the units for vitamin E. CSFII stands for ….” to the Method section.

6) In the four paragraphs of the Results section (page 10), move “IU and RE refer to the unit for measuring …” to the Method section.

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

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published
Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests