Reviewer’s report

Title: Familial autoimmunity: a meta-analysis

Version: 2 Date: 12 November 2012

Reviewer: Didac Mauricio

Reviewer’s report:

The authors made substantial changes to the paper. Most of the changes requested by this reviewer were made. I have few additional comments to this new version of the manuscript.

-Minor essential revisions

I would recommend that the legends to figures 4 to 7 include enough information to be self-explanatory, i.e. the reader does not have to go back to the main text to interpret the content of the figures.

Please, in the reference list, check the abbreviations of the journal titles. There are many that are not abbreviated. Please, follow the instructions for authors.

Please, see my previous comment concerning figure 2. I strongly feel that this figure (now figure number 8) should be deleted. Alternatively, this could be included as additional supplementary material.

Also, I recommend to delete figure 1.

In the discussion, the authors seem to recommend screening of first-degree relatives of probands affected by these autoimmune diseases. As far as this reviewer knows, there is not consistent evidence-based information for recommending screening of autoimmune diseases in relatives of most autoimmune diseases. The main conclusion concerning this issue should be that further research is needed.

-Discretionary revisions

I still think that the authors used too many abbreviations.

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests