Reviewer's report

Title: Genome-wide DNA Methylation Analysis for Diabetic Nephropathy in Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus

Version: 1 Date: 19 March 2010

Reviewer: Curt Balch

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Major Compulsory Revisions:
1. Improved explanation of why DNA methylation events in peripheral blood cells could be surrogate markers for aberrant DNA methylation occurring in the kidney, as epigenetic modifications (except for heterochromatin and imprinted genes) are largely tissue-specific.

2. Improved explanation of why methylation at a single CpG upstream of UNC13B could be associated with silencing of that particular gene (or how this might relate to a UNC13B intronic SNP).

Discretionary Revisions:

1. Independent validation of a few of the 19 CpGs found associated with time to nephropathy.

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.