Author's response to reviews

Title: Sequence variation in telomerase reverse transcriptase (TERT) as a determinant of risk of cardiovascular disease: the Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities (ARIC) Study

Authors:

Jan Bressler (jan.bressler@uth.tmc.edu)
Nora Franceschini (noraf@unc.edu)
Ellen W Demerath (ewd@umn.edu)
Thomas H Mosley (tmosley@umn.edu)
Aaron R Folsom (folsom@epi.umn.edu)
Eric Boerwinkle (Eric.Boerwinkle@uth.tmc.edu)

Version: 3
Date: 13 May 2015

Author's response to reviews: see over
My colleagues and I are submitting a revised manuscript entitled “Sequence variation in telomerase reverse transcriptase (TERT) as a determinant of risk of cardiovascular disease: the Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities (ARIC) Study” in response to the referees’ comments. We would like to thank the reviewers for their many helpful suggestions, and we have indicated our responses to the referees’ comment below organized by reviewer.

Response to Reviewer 1:

Major Revisions:

1) The power calculation should be clarified. Power to detect an association should be expressed in terms of the effect that could be detected for each SNP in whites and African-Americans.

The power to detect an association is expressed in terms of the effect that could be detected for each SNP in whites and African-Americans (lines 187 – 190). This information has been included in the Methods section in response to a suggestion by Reviewer 2.

Minor Revisions:

1) In the results section, add the proportion (%) of events in whites and African-Americans for CHD, stroke and mortality.

The proportion of events in whites and African-Americans for CHD, stroke and mortality has been added to the Results section (lines 198 – 201 and lines 213 - 215).

2) At line 206, replace “significantly” by “nominally”, as the association is not significant after correction for multiple testing.

“Significantly” has been replaced by “nominally” as suggested by the Reviewer (line 210).
Discretionary Revisions

1) Background section of the Abstract could still be shortened.

The background section of the abstract has not been edited further.

Response to Reviewer 2:

Minor Essential Revision:

1) Paragraph 2 of discussion is a bit long, perhaps break into 2-3 smaller paragraphs.

Paragraph 2 has been broken into 2 smaller paragraphs (Paragraph 2: lines 230 – 248; Paragraph 3: lines 249 – 271).

2) Power calculation/analysis should be moved to methods section.

The power calculation has been moved to the Methods section as suggested (lines 187 – 190).

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or require any additional information.

Sincerely,

Jan Bressler, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Human Genetics Center
School of Public Health
University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
1200 Pressler Street
Houston, Texas 77030

Telephone: (713) 500-9919
Fax: (713) 500-0900
E-mail: jan.bressler@uth.tmc.edu