Reviewer's report

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

Version: 2 Date: 28 March 2015

Reviewer: Sebastien Theriault

Reviewer's report:

I assessed the revised version of the manuscript "Sequence variation in telomerase reverse transcriptase (TERT) as a determinant of risk of cardiovascular disease: the Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities (ARIC) Study" by Bressler et al.

Most of the reviewer's comments have been adequately addressed. However, I still have a few comments.

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.

Minor Revisions

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

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

Discretionary Revisions

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

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.