Reviewer’s report

Title: THE RS4939827 POLYMORPHISM IN THE SMAD7 GENE AND ITS ASSOCIATION WITH MEDITERRANEAN DIET IN COLORECTAL CARCINOGENESIS.

Version: 1 Date: 17 Jul 2017

Reviewer: Gerd Bobe

Reviewer’s report:

The revised manuscript is improved to the original copy.

Please address the following comments/suggestions in the manuscript:

1) You wrote on page 7 line 25 that your cases and controls were frequency matched by age, sex and region. Table 1 in the Annex (page 23) reports significant differences in sex between man and women (more than 10% differences). Please explain in the manuscript how you could have such large differences despite matching by age. The only explanation I can come up with is that you did not match. In addition, please specify in the Materials and Methods section if you match by exact age or by age group (e.g. 5-year age interval).

2) In your response, you wrote how you distinguished vegetable from legume intake. In the vegetable intake, you included green beans and beans, whereas green peas are in the legume group. Legumes botanically are considered all fruits of the leguminosae family. Usually soy beans and peanuts, although being legumes, are excluded because of their higher fat content. Green beans and peas are by some grouped with the vegetable group, whereas other group them into the legume group. Given this grouping, I got confused why a) green peas are in one group and green beans are in the other, b) why beans are in the vegetable group, and c) why are only white beans of the dry bean group is in the legume group (i would have expected black beans, navy or pinto beans at least mentioned. Please justify your grouping. In addition, please add as footnote for table 2 how you defined the vegetable and the legume group.

3) Please add to the Discussion if this cohort has been tested for the association between fiber intake and colorectal carcinogenesis and what the results were. If this is not done, then this would be for me a limitation of the study because the genotype x diet effect could be due to fiber intake rather than adherence to the Mediterranean diet and this should be mentioned as limitation at the end of the Discussion.

4) Another limitation that should be mentioned at the end of the Discussion as limitation is that, based on your responses, the validity and reliability of the FFQ was not evaluated. If you have values for validity and reliability, please add them to the Materials and Methods.

Minor Comments:
1) Page 23 - Table 1: Please change "cultural level" to "education level".

2) Page 23 - Table 1: Please change "METS" to "Physical Activity (METS)".

**Are the methods appropriate and well described?**
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

**Does the work include the necessary controls?**
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?**
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?**
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

**Declaration of competing interests**
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

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