Author’s response to reviews

Title: HLA class I (-A, -B, -C) and class II (-DR, -DQ) polymorphism in the Mauritanian population

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editor,

Thank you for your reply.

It is our pleasure to see that our efforts were satisfactory in bringing this manuscript to a form which meets your journal standard. We will welcome any further suggestion or comment from you or the reviewers.

Yours sincerely

Ahmed Houmeida

Please find below our reply to the reviewer 1 suggestions and comments. Should you feel any other rewording more expressive of these data, please feel free to do.

Page 11, 42-53: "Our results …………………..compatible with genetic differences". In the submitted version, we have, as requested by the reviewer, rephrased the paragraph as follows:
Although no significant ethnic variation was observed on the basis of $\chi^2$ and $p$ values, our results on the distribution of HLA antigens, coherently with previous studies on other biomarkers (Hamed et al., 2012; Hamed et al., 2013; Abdelhamid et al., 2014; Veten et al., 2015), suggest genetic differences between the different ethnic groups of the Mauritanian population. Besides, similarities in HLA alleles frequencies between our population and both the North African and sub-Saharan populations were also revealed by this study.

Page 12, 29-35: "However, as these ethnic groups ……….highly speculative.

We agree with the reviewer that given the limited size of the samples, the assumption of allele specificity is not fully supported. We have reworded that sentence as follow:

Although some HLA alleles were found exclusively in some ethnic groups, given the limited number of typed individuals in each ethnic group, assumption of allele specificity could not be ascertained in this study.

Page 13, 44-48: Text in green must be removed.

The text referred to by the reviewer has been removed to his suggestion.