Reviewer’s report

Title: Association of matrix metalloprotease 1, 3, and 12 polymorphisms with rheumatic heart disease in a Chinese Han population

Version: 1 Date: 09 Jan 2018

Reviewer: Angelica Beate Winter Boldt

Reviewer’s report:

Congratulations, your manuscript improved! Nevertheless, some points remain:

The answers to the first questions "Why it is important..." and "Why only..." are good and should be summarized and incorporated in the abstract itself. For example, instead of "It has been suggested that genetic susceptibility play an important role in the development of rheumatic heart disease (RHD).”, write a sentence with the answers to the questions (you answered only to me, but this will help the reader to understand, at first glance, the importance of your work). Do also include the missing information in the introduction, as well as the references cited here.

With FDR, I meant Benjamini-Hochberg correction, but the p values with the new statistical analysis are acceptable.

Please rephrase "Therefore, different ethnic groups and diseases may lead to diversity in polymorphism research." There are other reasons for contradictory results in association studies (poor control-patient matching, low sample size, etc.).

Please include your inability to provide functional results, as one of the drawbacks of your work, in the conclusion. Nevertheless - adequately cryopreserved RNA and serum samples can well be used after one year - maybe you don't have them?

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

Yes

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

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