Author’s response to reviews

Title: Genomic analysis of a spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) discordant family identifies a novel mutation in TLL2, an activator of growth differentiation factor 8 (myostatin): a case report

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Dr. Lu,

Your manuscript "Genomic analysis of a spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) discordant family identifies a novel mutation in TLL2, an activator of growth differentiation factor 8 (myostatin): a case report" (MGTC-D-19-00496R1) has been assessed by our reviewers. Based on these reports, and my own assessment as Editor, I am pleased to inform you that it is potentially acceptable for publication in BMC Medical Genetics, once you have carried out some essential revisions suggested by our reviewers.

Their reports, together with any other comments, are below. Please also take a moment to check our website at https://www.editorialmanager.com/mgtc/ for any additional comments that were saved as attachments. Please note that as BMC Medical Genetics has a policy of open peer review, you will be able to see the names of the reviewers.

Once you have made the necessary corrections, please submit a revised manuscript online at:

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We request that a point-by-point response letter accompanies your revised manuscript. This letter must provide a detailed response to each reviewer/editorial point raised, describing what amendments have been made to the manuscript text and where these can be found (e.g. Methods section, line 12, page 5). If you disagree with any comments raised, please provide a detailed rebuttal to help explain and justify your decision.
Please also ensure that your revised manuscript conforms to the journal style, which can be found at the Submission Guidelines on the journal homepage.

A decision will be made once we have received your revised manuscript, which we expect by 23 Nov 2019.

Please note that you will not be able to add, remove, or change the order of authors once the editor has accepted your manuscript for publication. Any proposed changes to the authorship must be requested during peer-review, and adhere to our criteria for authorship as outlined in BioMed Central's policies. To request a change in authorship, please download the 'Request for change in authorship form' which can be found here - http://www.biomedcentral.com/about/editorialpolicies#authorship. Please note that incomplete forms will be rejected. Your request will be taken into consideration by the editor, and you will be advised whether any changes will be permitted. Please be aware that we may investigate, or ask your institute to investigate, any unauthorized attempts to change authorship or discrepancies in authorship between the submitted and revised versions of your manuscript.

We look forward to receiving your revised manuscript and please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Best wishes,

Victor Faundes
BMC Medical Genetics
https://bmcmedgenet.biomedcentral.com/

Technical Comments:

Editor Comments:

Dear Authors,

Thanks for your revision. Please consider Reviewer's 2 comments and add Supp. Table with analyses of all detected variants as a main Table in the manuscript in order that it is definitely accepted.

Response:
We now have put all the 318 detected rare variants in Table S3.

Reviewer reports:

Didem Dayangac-Erden (Reviewer 1): Please include all comments for the authors in this box rather than uploading your report as an attachment. Please only upload as attachments annotated versions of manuscripts, graphs, supporting materials or other aspects of your report which cannot be included in a text format.

Anton V Kiselev, Ph.D. (Reviewer 2): Dear Authors,
I may conclude that you have improved your manuscript and some necessary experimental data has
been added and now the manuscript can be published now. However, as minor revisions I recommend you to add in discussion that this study in some extent should be considered as preliminary research. In my opinion it is too risky accepting such findings that are supported by pathogenicity prediction with software. The only functional links are TLL2 knockout mice and myostatin, as target of TLL2. I think it would be useful to publish this research but the authors should keep in mind necessity to conduct functional genomics study to recognize this gene as SMA modifier.

Response:
We appreciate the reviewer’s suggestion. We now have added the sentence in discussion (line 248-249). Furthermore, we have put all the 318 detected rare variants in Table S3 for other researchers to study the genomic variants within SMA discordant family.