Author’s response to reviews

Title: Molecular Epidemiology and Hematologic Characterization of δβ-thalassemia and Hereditary Persistence of Fetal Hemoglobin in 125661 Families of Greater Guangzhou Area, the metropolis of Southern China

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Author’s response to reviews:

Reviewer reports:

Stella Tamana (Reviewer 1): The authors have adequately addressed all of my comments, and I request no further revision.

Merlin Crossley (Reviewer 2): This was and remains an interesting paper. Several improvements have been made to the figures and they help clarify some of the more complicated aspects.

1. On page 10 "Gabriella E revealed..." should be "Martyn et al., revealed..."

Answer: We have revised the manuscript according to the reviewer’s comment. Please see Discussion section, line 81, page 8.

2. The sentence "Our study first described a natural model for completely disrupting ZBTB7A binding." is confusing. This is not the first study to describe a complete disruption. Rather it could read "Our study is the first to describe a patient in which the binding of ZBTB7A is disrupted on both alleles".

Answer: We have revised the manuscript according to the reviewer’s comment. Please see Discussion section, line 89, page 8.
Helena Kuivaniemi, MD, PhD (Editor): Please also go through the entire text carefully and edit to improve readability.

Answer: We have gone through the entire text carefully several times and revised some minor mistakes.

Please see the sentences highlighted in red font in the revised manuscript.