Reviewer’s report

Title: Serotonin transporter gene polymorphism (5-HTTLPR) L allele interacts with stress to increase anxiety symptoms in Chinese adolescents: a multiwave longitudinal study

Version: 2 Date: 10 July 2015

Reviewer: Kristin Nicodemus

Reviewer’s report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. Page 5, lines 18-9: individuals with various psychiatric disorders were excluded, but not those with anxiety disorders. Why?

2. Table 1: What explanation might be given for the decrease in MASC-C and ALEQ scores across the timepoints?

3. Table 2: The coefficient for 5-HTTLPR x stress is actually negative, but it is not interpreted in the text. The authors should explain what this means in light of the interaction.

4. Figure 1: I don’t know if I am missing something here, but it appears that the intercepts for the different genotypes are different, but their slopes are not, which would indicate no interaction.

5. Page 12, lines 14-16: The authors report that they found the opposite effect on depression (in girls only) than the results reported in this manuscript. They controlled for depression in the models presented, but it is unclear if they also controlled for anxiety in the depression analyses reported in [18]?

6. The authors claim that differences might be found due to differential linkage disequilibrium patterns between populations previously studied (e.g., African American, European-ancestry samples). It would be useful to add information on LD patterns from 1000 Genomes instead of speculating on the differences between populations.

Major Essential Revisions

7. There are several typos – please proofread.

Discretionary Revisions

None

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests
Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.