Reviewer's report

Title: Understandings of genomic research in developing countries: a qualitative study of the views of MalariaGEN participants in Mali.

Version: 1 Date: 19 December 2014

Reviewer: Yann Joly

Reviewer's report:

Discretionary revisions:

8. In the ‘Abstract’ section, the authors explain that the objective of their research is to identify best practices in recruiting participants into genomic research. Moreover, under ‘Discussion’, near the end of the paper, the authors argue that “capacity building to support understanding of genomic research amongst research staff, and to support the development of methods to support understanding of genomic research amongst participants, is a critical component of future genomic studies”. They subsequently add that “such capacity building ought also to include the development of training and educational resources relating to practical ethics”. However, the authors fail to provide practical ethical guidelines. The authors could suggest ethical best practices regarding the extent and scope of the information provided to researchers and potential participants involved in the consent to genomic research process in lower income countries. Such suggestions could be presented in the format of a Box or Table in the ‘Discussion’ section of the paper.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below