Author’s response to reviews

Title: Linkage and exome analysis implicate multiple genes in non-syndromic intellectual disability in a large Swedish family

Authors:

Eva Carlström (eva.lindholm@igp.uu.se)
Jonatan Halvardson (jonatan.halvardson@igp.uu.se)
Mitra . Etemadikhah (mitra.etemadikhah@igp.uu.se)
Lennart Wetterberg (lennart.wetterberg@ki.se)
Karl-Henrik Gustavson (karl-henrik.gustavson@telia.com)
Lars Feuk (lars.feuk@igp.uu.se)

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Editor Comments:

1. Ethics approval and consent to participate

In your “Ethical approval and consent to participate” section of your Declarations please clarify why the ethics committee that approved your method of consent to participate they felt that written consent was not necessary for this study. Please also detail how you documented the consent.

The samples were collected several decades ago, when written consent was neither required nor standard practice. Instead a written consent document describing the study and what was to be stated when collecting the oral consent was submitted to the ethical review board. This document was used by the doctors collecting samples and oral consent. The document was reviewed by the ethics committee and considered sufficient, since it described the information that was provided to all participants of the study and its contents were similar to a normal written consent. Information about the participating individuals, including consent to participate in the study,
were collected and archived by the clinician leading the study at the time (co-author Karl-Henrik Gustavson).

2. Availability of data and materials

While you have stated that the variants that were detected in the exome sequencing analysis and validated with Sanger sequencing were submitted to ClinVar, the accession number SUB3086641 does not yield any search results.

Please be aware that we are an open access journal and submission of a manuscript to a BMC journal implies that materials described in the manuscript, including all relevant raw data, will be freely available to any scientist wishing to use them for non-commercial purposes, without breaching participant confidentiality.

In light of this, we ask that you provide the accession numbers or direct web links to the relevant datasets which allow for public access and include these in the Availability of data and materials section of your manuscript. If the datasets are not publicly available, please provide a valid reason.

The correct accession numbers for the variants submitted to ClinVar are VCV000488642 – VCV000488646.

3. Competing interests

Currently, your competing interests statement is unclear.

Please note that a competing interest exists when the authors’ interpretation of data or presentation of information may be influenced by, or may be perceived to be influenced by, their personal or financial relationship with other people or organizations. Competing interests may be financial or non-financial. Authors should disclose any financial competing interests but also any non-financial competing interests that may cause them embarrassment if they were to become public after the publication of the manuscript.

If the authors have no competing interests, please include the statement “The authors declare that they have no competing interests” in the Competing interests section of your manuscript.
We have now updated the statement to “The authors declare that they have no competing interests”.

4. Role of funding bodies

Please provide more details regarding the specific role of each of the funding bodies in your study. If the funding bodies only provided the financial means to allow the authors to carry out the study, please state “The funding bodies played no role in the design of the study and collection, analysis, and interpretation of data and in writing the manuscript” and include this statement in the Funding section of your manuscript.

However, if each of the funding bodies took part in the design of the study and collection, analysis, and interpretation of data, and the writing of the manuscript, this must be stated in the Competing Interests section of your manuscript.

We have now updated the section on funding bodies to state “The funding bodies played no role in the design of the study and collection, analysis, and interpretation of data and in writing the manuscript”.

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