Reviewer's report

Title: Familial aggregation and socio-demographic correlates of taste preferences in European children

Version: 0 Date: 27 Feb 2017

Reviewer: David Meyre

Reviewer's report:

Study by H. Jilani et al.:

1- Familial aggregation studies for food preferences may be scarce in literature because most investigators focus on heritability studies since a long time. Heritability studies for food preferences are not scarce in literature (Breen, 2006; Keskitalo 2007; Tornwall 2014; Pallister 2015; Smith 2016). Please cite and discuss these important studies.

2- Methods: it is not clear how many kids have information for food preference from both parents. The information is available in Table 3, but the authors may also mention it in the text.

3- I suggest to provide heritability estimates for food preference traits. You may provide global parent-offspring heritability estimates, and compare father-offspring and mother-offspring estimates, as well as the parent-boy and parent-girl estimates. You can also provide more specific subgroup estimates (e.g. father-boy). Please acknowledge in the discussion that the subgroup analyses are not as powered as the global analyses and need to be interpreted with more caution.

4- The authors do not provide clear justifications to analyze children aged less or more 12 years separately. Considering the important impact of subgroup analyses on statistical power, I recommend to analyze the whole sample adjusting the analyses by age.
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.
No

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.
Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.
Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.
I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:
Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?
2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?
3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?
4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?
5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?
6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?
If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal