Professor James P. Evans

Editor-in Chief

*Genetics in Medicine*

June 2, 2014

Dear Professor Evans,

Enclosed please find out our recent research paper entitled “Copy number variation of HLA-DQA1 and APOBEC3A/3B contribute to the susceptibility of systemic sclerosis in Chinese Han population”. Systemic sclerosis (SSc) is a systemic connective tissue disease which caused by complex genetic aberrant. Till now, the role of the copy number variations (CNV) on susceptibility of SSc was not clear yet. In our present study, genome-wide CNVs screening was performed in six SSc patients. And five potentially SSc associated common CNVs were identified which include HLA-DRB5, HLA-DQA1, IRGM, CDC42EP3 and APOBEC3A/3B. Then these five common CNV were alidated in 365 SSc patients and 369 matched health samples from Chinese Han population with AccuCopy technology. Our result demonstrate copy number variation of HLA-DQA1 and APOBEC3A/3B were significantly associated with SSc. contributed to the susceptibility of SSc

I would greatly appreciate could you consider its suitability for publication in *Genetics in Medicine*

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All authors have agreed the current version of the manuscript. The manuscript has not been submitted to elsewhere for considering publication.

Thanks for your editorial help in advance.

Sincerely,

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