In this Letter, we reported the detection and replication of epistatic interactions between common single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) that influence gene expression in peripheral blood, including both cis–cis and cis–trans interactions. Wood et al. (2014) replicated these findings statistically in an additional whole-genome sequencing dataset but found that a large fraction of these epistatic effects could be explained by tagging sequence variants that were not genotyped in our study. They suggested that the interactions arose owing to haplotypes that tag single additive variants. In our response [BN1], we argued that such a mechanism could not explain cis–trans interactions. We have since undertaken further analyses to try to understand the mechanism that gives rise to cis–trans associations (Hemani et al. 2020). We find that in the presence of imperfectly tagged cis-expression quantitative trait loci with large additive effects, the F-test statistic for the interaction term commonly used to test for interactions can result in an inflated false positive rate. As a result, we acknowledge concern over whether our reported epistatic associations arose owing to biological mechanisms or from inflated test statistics caused by imperfectly tagged additive effects. Consequently, all authors wish to retract this Letter.