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Dr. Rhiannon Macrae

Editor, Trends in Genetics

Dear Dr. Macrae,

Please find attached our revised manuscript entitled “The overdue promise of short tandem repeats for heritability”. We thank both you and the reviewers for your time and for your helpful comments. We have addressed all editor and reviewer comments, incorporating various changes, for an improved final version. We hope that you will find the result satisfactory.

Broadly, the following substantive changes were made in response to comments:

1. We have added historical context in the introductory section of the paper to justify why the promise of STRs is ‘overdue’.
2. We have modified the discussion of extant technologies for STR genotyping to provide a more balanced view of their merits.
3. We have added several citations and modified the text to justify our extensive discussion of somatic STR variation, and why we believe that it is a) a factor to be considered in general STR genotyping, and b) current protocols may ignore this important information.

In addition to these edits, a variety of more minor comments were addressed and typographical corrections were made in the manuscript. A complete point-by-point response is included in the response to reviewers.

Please let us know if we can answer any further questions or concerns.

With best regards,

Christine Queitsch, PhD,

Dept. of Genome Sciences

University of Washington