

Manuscript no. HAEMATOL/2012/062661 entitled: “CYBRD1 AS A MODIFIER GENE THAT MODULATES IRON PHENOTYPE IN HFE p.C282Y HOMOZYGOUS PATIENTS”

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Information about the contributions of each person named as having participated in the study

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The guarantors of this manuscript confirm that all persons designated as authors qualify for authorship, and that each author has participated sufficiently in the work to take public responsibility for appropriate portions of the content.

2) Authors who participated in the conception of the study: Sara Pelucchi, Alberto Piperno

3) Design & Methods. The following authors were responsible for specific investigations:

- Sara Pelucchi was responsible for genotyping by Illumina BeadXpress Reader platform.
- Francesca Bertola was responsible for genotyping by Illumina BeadXpress Reader platform.
- Giulia Litta Modignani was responsible for genotyping by direct sequencing and for Dual-Luciferase Assays.
- Raffaella Mariani was responsible for patients enrolment, collection and assembly of phenotypic data.
- Anna Ludovica Fracanzani was responsible for patients enrolment and collection of phenotypic data.
- Fabiana Busti was responsible for patients enrolment and assembly of phenotypic data.
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4) Results. The following authors were responsible for specific portions of the results, including figures and tables:

- Raffaella Mariani was responsible for Table 1.
- Giulia Litta Modignani was responsible for Table 2.
- Claudia Specchia and Stefano Calza were responsible for Table 3, Statistical results, Figure 1a, Figure 1b.
- Sara Pelucchi, Raffaella Mariani, Stefano Calza, Claudia Specchia and Alberto Piperno were responsible for interpretation.

5) Writing the manuscript. The following authors were responsible for writing the manuscript:

- Sara Pelucchi was responsible for Introduction, Design and Methods, Extraction of DNA from blood and SNP selection sections as well as Supplementary Methods, Results and Discussion.
- Raffaella Mariani was responsible for Introduction, Design and Methods, Subjects and Iron Indices sections, Results.
- Giulia Litta Modignani was responsible for Introduction, Design and Methods, Dual-Luciferase reporter assay section, Results.
- Claudia Specchia was responsible for Design and Methods, Statistical methods section as well as Supplementary Methods, Results.
- Alberto Piperno was responsible for Abstract and Discussion.

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