alcohol abuse or dependence. The data for unaffected individuals did not show evidence for association of the DRD2 gene with alcoholism.

Sub-pair analyses also provided no evidence of linkage (1, 8). Noble quotes two studies using sub-pairs (9, 10). As discussed in our paper (1), the first provided no evidence for linkage with the alcohol dependence syndrome; all of the putative evidence for linkage with heavy drinking came from one large sibling analysis analyzed with no correction for non-independence (9). Neither the remaining families nor the replication sample gave any evidence for linkage (9). The other study (10) notes a nearly significant (p = 0.06) result by one technique that could not be replicated by more powerful analyses, including TDT, and therefore represents a negative report, in line with ours. An earlier study by the same group also found no linkage, although reporting a population association (11).

In summary, our study used a powerful method of analysis that avoids the major pitfall of previous association studies, the proper matching of controls. It yielded no evidence that the DRD2 Taq1-A allele or an STRP in the same gene is associated with alcoholism.

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