Reviewer’s report

Title: The United States and Canada as a coupled epidemiological system: an example from hepatitis A

Version: 4 Date: 28 January 2008

Reviewer: Kimberly Thompson

Reviewer’s report:

I thank the authors for responding to my comments and I commend them on what I believe is an excellent contribution to the literature. I noted a few minor things that they might want to correct, which I assume might otherwise be caught during copy editing:

p. 8, first sentence in last para: Please clarify in the text that Table 1 is about the US model, later in the same para, 5 lines from bottom: shouldn’t that be domestic (US) transmission instead of domestic (Canadian) transmission? Also, parenthesis missing after "(betaij" five lines from the bottom.

p. 11, 6th line: Fix 1980-1004!

p. 12, last sentence: I'm not sure that I get the logic of the inference, do the authors mean "at least" instead of "approximately"?

p. 13, line 7: I believe HAV vaccine should be HA vaccine

p. 13, sentence on lines 5-7 of last paragraph: This is just a repeat of the sentence on lines 5-7 of last paragraph on page 5, do the authors mean to say something like, "As noted previously, ...

p. 15, line 5: should "previous" be "previously"

p. 16, five lines from the bottom: Something is funny in this sentence. It should either be "endemic regions ... and Central America" OR "endemic region ... or Central America" singular/plural agreement not currently working

Equation A1: Seems like betaij should be superscripted with "US"

What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.
Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests