Author's response to reviews

Title: The Relation of C-Reactive Protein to Chronic Kidney Disease in African Americans: The Jackson Heart Study

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To the Editor:

Please see the 2nd revised version to the previously submitted manuscript entitled, “The Relation of C-Reactive Protein to Chronic Kidney Disease in African Americans: The Jackson Heart Study” by Ervin R. Fox, MD, MPH, Emelia J. Benjamin, MD, ScM, Harsha Nagarajarao, MD, Jason K. Taylor, MD, Daniel F. Sarpong, PhDc, Michael W. Steffes, MD, PhD, Abdullah K. Salahudeen, MD, Ermek L. Akylbekova, Caroline S. Fox, MD, MPH, Michael F. Flessner, MD, Robert J. Garrison, PhD, and Herman A. Taylor, Jr., MD. Also see the responses to the reviewers.

This manuscript is not under consideration by any other journal. All authors have reviewed the manuscript in its present form.

Ervin Fox, Emelia Benjamin, and Herman Taylor initiated the idea of the manuscript and participated in the development, analysis, write-up and final review. Also Harsha Nagarajarao and Jason Taylor participated heavily in the manuscript write-up and final review. Dr. Sarpong, Dr. Ermek Akylbekova and Dr. Steffes contributed their expertise in C-reactive protein data in the Jackson Heart Study and contributed to the analysis and methods sections of the manuscript. Dr. Flessner, Dr. Carolyn Fox and Dr. Salahudeen contributed their knowledge
base on chronic kidney disease and the methods and discussion section of the manuscript. Robert Garrison contributed greatly to the review and editorial changes to the final manuscript.

The authors feel the manuscript contributes by adding to current literature on the impact of systemic inflammation to chronic kidney disease in middle-aged African Americans using the large cohort of the Jackson Heart Study. C-reactive protein has been recently found to be a predictor of cardiovascular outcome in African Americans and there is interest toward its relation to subclinical disease in this group.

We thank you for your consideration.

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Reviewer Comments and Author Responses

Comment 1

* Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

1. Include MDRD in the list of abbreviations and introduce the abbreviation on page 6, line 3.

Authors Response

This is corrected in the revision. MDRD is listed in the abbreviations and the appropriately introduced on page 6.

Comment 2

Introduction: Provide a justification why albumin was investigated. It is not sufficient to write: "We examined the cross-sectional association of CRP ....".

Authors Response

This is corrected in the revision. In the introduction we mention that the relation of CRP concentrations to albuminuria may be dependent on ethnicity and sex and that this may be part of the clustering of cardiovascular risk factors and disease observed in African Americans.

Comment 3

Page 5, para 1, line 5 and 6 from below: check the commas and semicolons.
Authors Response
This has been checked and corrections made in the revision.

Comment 4
Page 9, para 2: Which factor eliminated the CRP-albumin association?
Authors Response
Obesity was the factor that eliminated the CRP-albumin association.

Comment 5
Page 11, para 2, line 5: Find a better sentence for some experts suggest (only one reference - one expert?).
Authors Response
This is corrected in the revision. In the revision we state, “One proposed explanation for higher CRP concentrations with CKD is that there is diminished filtration of CRP in end-stage renal disease.”

Comment 6
Tables 2 and 3. Legend: change "hormone therapy replacement" by "hormone replacement therapy"
Authors Response
Table 2 and 3 legends are corrected in the revision.