Author's response to reviews

Title: Comparison of the Prevalence of Diminished Kidney Function and National Kidney Foundation Diagnosed Chronic Kidney Disease using the Different Estimating equations in a representative sample of the non-institutionalised Irish Population

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To the Editor,

I would like to submit this paper to BMC Nephrology as an original article. This is of importance both in Ireland and in Europe not just to nephrologists but to all practising physicians. Every day in every hospital and GP surgery doctors are using estimating equations to calculate eGFR on their patients, laboratories are automatically deriving eGFR on patients who have submitted an electrolyte profile and an eGFR returns to their physician, these calculations around Europe are nearly all done with the MDRD equation. It is rare that population wide randomly selected subjects that are representative of the population are used to stratify the population by eGFR and most of these studies do not include an assessment of albuminuria. This is the first population wide study done on Irish subjects deriving an estimation of the prevalence of CKD and comparing the use of the MDRD equation to the newer CKD EPI formula. It is of particular importance now as the KDOQI guidelines are likely to consider the use of this new formula so this is very topical and relevant to all physicians.

Best wishes

Dr Gemma Browne

Contribution of each co author

Gemma Browne had a major role in data analysis and interpretation of results and drafted the paper.

Jennifer Lutomski was part of the research team for the SLÁN 2007 and had a role in the statistical analysis and drafted part of the paper.

Joseph Eustace contributed to the interpretation of results, drafting of paper and revision of the paper.
Ivan Perry was a PI on SLÁN 2007 and made revisions to the paper.

All authors approved the final version of the paper for publication.

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Conflict of interest:

None declared. SLÁN 2007 was approved by the research ethics committee of the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland. This study analyzed de-identified, secondary data and was therefore exempt from clinical research ethics committee review.

The results presented in this paper have not been published previously in whole or part, except in abstract form.