Author's response to reviews

Title: The correlates of urinary albumin to creatinine ratio (ACR) in a high risk Australian Aboriginal community

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Author's response to reviews: see over
08 January 2013

Dear Editor,

Enclosed please find our original research article entitled" The correlates of urinary albumin to creatinine ratio (ACR) in a high risk Australian Aboriginal community". This study is the most detailed modelling of pathologic albuminuria for Australian Indigenous people to date. There are several innovations that make it additional interests to audience:

This study includes a very detailed menu of variables that were measured, including: anthropometric indices, blood pressure, glucose, lipoprotein profiles, C-reactive protein, uric acid, serum albumin, systatinc C, serum gamma glutammyl transferase and alanine aminotransferase and self-reported smoking.
The outcomes were modelled against potential independent variables around their median values, rather than arbitrary definitions of high or low, thus allowing more robust numbers of modelling.
Factor analysis was applied to produce some smaller sets of clusters of variables in the analyses.
Models were evaluated for albuminuria at or above the microalbuminuria threshold, as well as for “overt albuminuria”, thus permitting us to distinguish factors in common and those that differ.

The individual contributions of co-authors are:

**Zaimin Wang** - Analysis of data, drafting the article; revising the article, final approval of the version to be published.

**Wendy Hoy** – Design and conduct of field work; Accrual of baselineine and longitudinal data; Conception and interpretation of data; revising the article; providing intellectual content of critical importance to the work described and final approval of the version to be published.

**Zhiqiang Wang** - Revising the article; providing intellectual content of critical importance to the work described and final approval of the version to be published.
Conflict of interest statement:
The results presented in this paper have not been published previously in
whole or part, except in abstract form.

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Thank you for your consideration.

Yours Sincerely,

Zaimin Wang, Wendy E. Hoy, Zhiqiang Wang