Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Urine YKL-40 is associated with progressive acute kidney injury or death in hospitalized patients

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 20 May 2014

**Reviewer:** In Joo Kim

**Reviewer’s report:**

Discretionary Revisions

1. Brief explanation of NGAL seems to be necessary in the background and discussion. The value of combining YKL-40 and NGAL is well visualized, however, the meaning and importance of NGAL is not properly expressed.

2. The result and meaning of combining YKL-40 and NGAL should be added at the conclusion of discussion at page 10, too.

3. The meaning of sentence "Accordingly, in this phase 3 biomarker development and proof-of-concept study[9]... seems to be not clear. The study of ref 9 is not the same to this study.

4. Did you measure the serial change of YKL-40? Change in YKL-40 might be associated more with AKI progression.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.