Author's response to reviews

Title: Spending on Vegetable and Fruit Consumption Could Reduce All-Cause Mortality among Older Adults

Authors:

Yuan-Ting Lo (yuantinglo@ndmctsgh.edu.tw)
Yu-Hung Chang (yhchang@nhri.org.tw)
Mark L. Wahlqvist (profmlw@nhri.org.tw)
Han-Bin Huang (toly2000@gmail.com)
Meei-Shyuan Lee (mmsl@ndmctsgh.edu.tw)

Version: 2 Date: 22 November 2012

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Professor Gabriel,

Re: Spending on Vegetable and Fruit Consumption Could Reduce All-Cause Mortality among Elders

By: Yuan-Ting Lo; Yu-Hung Chang; Mark L. Wahlqvist; Han-Bin Huang; Meei-Shyuan Lee

We have revised our manuscript according to the two reviewers and now make a resubmission. The changes in the manuscript are underlined. We have deleted Figure 1 as reviewer 1 suggested. However, we would like to retain Tables 2 and 4. In Table 2, we provide the socio-demographic profiles of the population studied in relation to quintiles of vegetable expenditure which are similar to fruit. These profiles provide the contextual framework to understand our findings as acknowledged by the 2nd reviewer. In addition, we want to indicate the expenditures on nutrients, as well as foods, in regard to survival. Therefore, we recommend the retention of Table 4.

The main reservation about our paper seems to have been that we have dealt with food expenditures rather than food intake. We have published elsewhere on intakes, but not on expenditures in this cohort. There are few studies of food expenditure among elderly people to provide insight into whether food expenditure and affordability are associated with survival. We now emphasize these points in the Introduction and Discussion sections. For the reviewers’ consideration, we provide the vegetable and fruit intakes in relation to mortality. Greater fruit and vegetable intakes were associated with better survival. While we have no objection to these data being included in the paper, we think it would detract from the focus on expenditure.

We thank the referees and look forward to publication of the revised paper in your Journal.

Yours sincerely,

Meei-Shyuan Lee, DrPH
School of Public Health
National Defense Medical Center
Taiwan, ROC