Author's response to reviews

Title: Heated indoor swimming pools, infants, and the pathogenesis of adolescent idiopathic scoliosis: a neurogenic hypothesis A neurogenic hypothesis involving delayed epigenetic effects of neurotoxins during development of the central nervous system.

Authors:

Marianne E McMaster Mrs. (m.mcmaster1@btinternet.com)

Version: 3 Date: 9 September 2011

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Sirs,

Re: 1082038798561089

Heated indoor swimming pools, infants and the pathogenesis of adolescent idiopathic scoliosis (AIS). A neurogenic hypothesis involving delayed epigenetic effects of neurotoxins during development of the central nervous system

I refer to your email dated 8th September 2011, returning the manuscript attaching the referees’ reports. Again I thank the referees for their comments in reviewing the paper.

I now address the points raised by the editorial team and ask that they accept my oversight in the formatting.

- On the title page, the title should include the study design, for example "A versus B in the treatment of C: a randomized controlled trial X is a risk factor for Y: a case control study". **Added the study descriptor “a neurogenic hypothesis”**

- Under the title insert the author(s) name(s) as fist name last name with the last name followed by a superscript number indicating the author's affiliation(s). **Done**

- Below the authors' names, insert the institutional addresses as each affiliation should be written in full, in the following format: department, institute, city, and country and sequential superscript numbers assigned to each. **Done**

- Insert the phrase *Corresponding author and place the * after the corresponding author's superscript number(s). **Done**

- Lastly, the authors’ email addresses should be listed under the heading Email addresses as author’s initials:email address e.g.JS:joe.shmoe@university.edu. **Done**

- Please only include one title. I’ve changed the title to: **“Heated indoor swimming pools, infants, and the pathogenesis of adolescent idiopathic scoliosis: a neurogenic hypothesis”**
Throughout the manuscript change all italicized text to normal except where indicated in the References. **Done**

In the Abstract, please insert the heading Testing the hypothesis and appropriate text below. **I have added in this heading.**

Move the text below the headings and remove the colons. **Done**

Please limit as possible the abbreviations in the Abstract section. In the abstract I have spelled out CNS and CSF but have left adolescent idiopathic scoliosis as AIS. Is this acceptable?

After the Competing interests section insert the heading Authors’ contributions listing their contributions and including the final sentence “All authors read and approved the final manuscript.” **I didn’t think that this section would be necessary as I am the only author but I have added: “MEM was responsible for all aspects of this paper and read and approved the final version”**.

The References should be formatted as number, period, space (not tab) and reference and for references 6 and 45, please list full page numbers e.g. 242-249. **Done – references 6 and 45 already have full page numbers**

I do hope this is now acceptable but will be happy to assist further should this be necessary. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Marianne E McMaster (Mrs.)