Author's response to reviews

Title: Endothelial Function and Urine Albumin Levels Among Asymptomatic Mexican-Americans and Non-Hispanic Whites

Authors:

Julius M Gardin (JGardin@humed.com)
Zuhair Allebban (zuhair.allebban@stjohn.org)
Nathan D Wong (ndwong@uci.edu)
Sharon K Sklar (jcsklar02@ameritech.net)
Renee L Bess (renee.bess@stjohn.org)
Ann M Spence (mspence@uci.edu)
Harrihar A Pershadsingh (hpershad@uci.edu)

Version: 2 Date: 30 July 2008

Author's response to reviews: see over
Reviewer 1 's report
This is an interesting study showing - as the main finding - the inverse relation between urinary albumin and FMD.

Minor comments:
Add as a study limitation the lack of an automated system for FMD analysis.

Reviewer 2 's report
In the present manuscript Gardin et al. investigate the ethnic differences between Mexican-American and non-Hispanic Whites in preclinical CVD. The methodology is appropriate, the data are sound and the conclusions are interesting. There are only a few issues that authors may wish to address:
1. Aim number 2 is not clearly stated. Please rephrase it.
2. In the discussion section authors state that FMD has been reported to be useful to predict long-term CVD risk; the results reported by the literature are not consistently unanimous. Please, discuss.

Reply:

Reviewer 1:
Page 11, para 2, line 4-5, a statement “The lack of an automated system for FMD analysis may be an added limitation of our study”, was added to the Limitation section

Reviewer 2:

1. Page 3, para 3, Line 7-9, aim number 2) was “FMD is associated with subclinical disease another urinary albumin measure, in one or more of these ethnic/gender subgroups” and clarified, and changed as follows: 2) FMD is associated with subclinical disease, as measured by urinary albumin, in one or more of these ethnic/gender subgroups.

2. Page 9, para 3, line 1, the statement “FMD has been reported to be useful to predict long-term CVD risk in high-risk and lower-risk populations”,...... was changed to
“FMD has been reported to be useful to assess long-term CVD risk in high-risk
and lower-risk populations”.

Page 9, para 3, line 2-3. An additional reference [15] was added to refer to the
study that reported FMD prediction of short-term postoperative cardiovascular
event risk in high-risk populations. The references were re-numbered in the text
and in the reference list.