Reviewer's report

Title: Global dimensions of chronic kidney disease of unknown etiology (CKDu): a modern era environmental and/or occupational nephropathy?

Version: 1  Date: 9 March 2015

Reviewer: Shanthi Mendis

Reviewer's report:

Please number your comments and divide them into

Major Compulsory Revisions

As conditions like Balkan nephropathy very clearly demonstrate it would take decades to establish with 100% certainty the exact aetiology of chronic kidney disease of unknown etiology.

Continuing research would be important as highlighted in the paper. However it must be recognized that this is a lethal condition affecting people. Future research may or may not result in finding a definite cause. During that time many lives will be lost.

It is therefore extremely important to also take necessary steps to prevent the development of the condition through preventive measures, based on the results and recommendations of studies already done.

Studies done up to date have identified probable aetiologies. Preventive public health measures need to be taken to address them as such measures will have no adverse effects on the health of people. These include for example access to pipeborne drinking water, quality control of agrochemicals and safety measures in using pesticides and weedicides. As these are general public health measures that are cost effective there are no adverse consequences or harm in implementing them. On the other hand such preventive measures will benefit people at risk.

This commentary need to take into consideration the above.

The author must respond to these before a decision on publication can be reached. For example, additional necessary experiments or controls, statistical mistakes, errors in interpretation.

Minor Essential Revisions

The author can be trusted to make these. For example, missing labels on figures, the wrong use of a term, spelling mistakes.

Discretionary Revisions
These are recommendations for improvement which the author can choose to ignore. For example clarifications, data that would be useful but not essential.

Please note that both the comments entered here and answers to the questions below constitute the report, bearing your name, that will be forwarded to the authors and published on the site if the article is accepted.

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

No conflict of interest