Reviewer’s report

Title: Pesticide exposures and chronic kidney disease of unknown etiology: an epidemiologic review

Version: 1 Date: 22 Apr 2017

Reviewer: Rebecca Laws

Reviewer’s report:

The edits and revisions improve and strengthen the manuscript, and I thank the authors for their responses.

I have several minor comments.

In regards to the abstract sentence: "In conclusion, existing studies provide scarce evidence for an association between pesticides and regional CKDu epidemics, but given the poor quality of the majority, a role of nephrotoxic agrochemicals cannot be conclusively discarded."

- Not all studies were necessarily poor quality, but the pesticide exposure assessment was not robust for most. This is perhaps a subtle difference but important nonetheless.

- I suggest replacing the word "discarded" as that implies that the purpose of the review was to "discard" this hypothesis

Lines 90-93 - Sentence about CKDu mortality in Sri Lanka is a bit confusing, please reword

There are minor grammatical errors throughout; I suggest editing prior to final submission.

Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?
2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal.