**Reviewer’s report**

**Title:** Human health implications of organic food and organic agriculture: A comprehensive review

**Version:** 0  **Date:** 27 Jul 2017

**Reviewer:** Marc Cohen

**Reviewer's report:**

This is an outstanding article that indeed provides a comprehensive overview of the current state of the research into the health impact of organic food. As there are very few direct human studies on the health impact of organic food the authors have had to make conclusions based on extrapolations from epidemiological and animal studies and they have done a commendable job in reviewing the existing literature. Their conclusions however are likely to underestimate the benefits of organic food consumption as current risk assessments for pesticides do not adequately address the risks of exposure to combinations or for carcinogenesis, endocrine-disruption or neurodevelopmental toxicity.

In their discussion the authors raise the important issue of the potential health effects of food processing techniques and correctly suggest that processing may affect the composition and bioavailability of food constituents. They do not however, consider food packaging and food contact chemicals, which may differ between conventional and organic food as identified by a study that found high levels of phthalates in organically produced milk that is most likely to have arisen in either the processing or packaging stage (see Sathyanarayana, S., et al. Unexpected results in a randomized dietary trial to reduce phthalate and bisphenol A exposures (2013) Journal of Exposure Science and Environmental Epidemiology, 1-7).

**Level of interest**

Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An exceptional article

**Quality of written English**

Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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