Author’s response to reviews

Title: Mediating Role of Arsenic in the Relationship between Diet and Pregnancy Outcomes: Prospective Birth Cohort in Bangladesh

Authors:

Pi-i Lin (debbylin@mail.harvard.edu)
Sabri Bromage (sbromage@mail.harvard.edu)
Md. Golam Mostofa (mostofa07@gmail.com)
Mohammad Rahman (mlrahman@hsph.harvard.edu)
Joseph Allen (jgallen@hsph.harvard.edu)
Emily Oken (emily_oken@harvardpilgrim.org)
Molly Kile (molly.kile@oregonstate.edu)
David CChristiani (dchris@hsph.harvard.edu)

Version: 2 Date: 19 Dec 2018

Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Mr. Ozonoff:

Thank you very much for the quick response in reviewing our submission. We appreciate both reviewers in taking the time to review our first round of revisions. To respond to the second round of revision, please see the point-by-point response below.

- Lines 6 9-72: Please confirm the number of 300 million people impacted by As exposure and the reference (http://www.who.int/ipcs/assessment/public_health/arsenic/en/). The Fact Sheet linked to on this page states "at least 140 million people in 50 countries have been drinking water containing arsenic at levels above the WHO provisional guideline value of 10 µg/L."

Response: We appreciate the reviewer in noting the difference in the number of affected population, and we have revised the introduction accordingly to 140 million.
- Lines 80-83: Specify that the concentrations listed are means.
Response: We have revised the sentence according to the reviewer’s comment.

- Line 88: When using "Arsenic" at the beginning of a sentence, it would be clearer to write out "Arsenic" rather than using the abbreviation "As".
Response: We have revised the sentence according to the reviewer’s comment.

- Line 91: An "and" is missing in the sentence: "...stillbirth, and moderate risk…"
Response: We have revised the sentence according to the reviewer’s comment.

- Line 267: An "a" is missing in the sentence: "...who came from a family…"
Response: We have revised the sentence according to the reviewer’s comment.

- Lines 266-269: Include p-values.
Response: We have revised the sentence according to the reviewer’s comment and added p-values in these sentences.

- Table 2: Please specify what test "*P" is determined by.
Response: We used analysis of variance to determine the p-value and had noted that in Table 2 according to the reviewer’s comment.

We have uploaded the revised manuscript with tracked changes in the online submission system. We appreciate Environmental Health for accepting the manuscript for publication.