

Ref: Manuscript# 75613

Epidemiology for Public Health Practice: The Application of Spatial Epidemiology

Authors' point-by-point response to Reviewers and Editors

Dated April 17, 2022

Dear Dr. Liu,

We are pleased to inform you that, after preview by the Editorial Office and peer review as well as Cross Check and Google plagiarism detection, we believe that the academic quality, language quality, and ethics of your manuscript (Manuscript NO.: 75631, Letter to the Editor) basically meet the publishing requirements of the *World Journal of Diabetes*. As such, we have made the preliminary decision that it is acceptable for publication after your appropriate revision.

Upon our receipt of your revised manuscript, we will send it for re-review. We will then make a final decision on whether to accept the manuscript or not, based upon the reviewers' comments, the quality of the revised manuscript, and the relevant documents.

Please follow the steps outlined below to revise your manuscript to meet the requirements for final acceptance and publication.

### **1 MANUSCRIPT REVISION DEADLINE**

We request that you submit your revision in no more than **14 days**. **Please note that you have only two chances for revising the manuscript.**

### **2 PLEASE SELECT TO REVISE THIS MANUSCRIPT OR NOT**

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### **3 SCIENTIFIC QUALITY**

Please resolve all issues in the manuscript based on the peer review report and make a point-by-point response to each of the issues raised in the peer review report. Note, authors must resolve all issues in the manuscript that are raised in the peer-review report(s) and provide point-by-point responses to each of the issues raised in the peer-review report(s); these are listed below for your convenience:

Reviewer #1:

**Scientific Quality:** Grade C (Good)

**Language Quality:** Grade C (A great deal of language polishing)

**Conclusion:** Minor revision

**Specific Comments to Authors:** Epidemiology for Public Health Practice: The Application of Spatial Epidemiology [Manuscript NO: 75631] General comments: The letter to the editor (LTE) aims to build upon a recently published manuscript on spatial epidemiology (SE). Specifically, the authors present examples of the use of SE in public health practice and highlight some concerns when applying and interpreting this tool. There is merit to this LTE. However, the purpose and contribution to scientific knowledge need to be clearly and succinctly stated. Furthermore, the LTE must be shortened considerably. Please avoid repeating the points raised in the original manuscript, and remove the paragraphs describing the history and examples of SE. In addition, there are several problems with the writing (e.g., punctuation, word usage, sentence fragments). I mention some below, but a copy editor's review is recommended. The LTE is worthy of publication if the authors can adequately address these issues.

1. Specific comments: Abstract • Please state the purpose and message of the LTE explicitly. As stated now, the purpose is too general. What about “the application of spatial epidemiology” are you addressing? You have concerns (related to ecological fallacy, information bias, and confounding effects) when interpreting results for use in research, public health practice, and health policy evaluation. The original manuscript is a review of the advances in the field but they did not mention any potential shortcomings. Your LTE is an attempt at providing a balanced viewpoint to complement their work.

Authors response: Thank you. In the revision, we keep the same title as the same, because in the Letter. Because we also wanted to add information to the review paper, by briefly giving few examples of the early development of spatial epidemiology in UK, and the application in the US (i.e., stroke belt and diabetes belt). We revised the aim of the Letter as: We aimed to briefly address few

examples of the applications of the concept of spatial epidemiology in the United Kingdom and in the US, and to discuss the potential limitations when applying spatial epidemiology in research and in public health practice. I hope this update would be accepted by the Reviewer.

2. Letter • 1st paragraph – please delete all sentences starting with sentence 3 (Notably, the authors...) until and including the sentence ending with "...where the interaction of these diseases and DM is high." Consequently, the introductory paragraph now only includes four sentences. Again, please emphasize that the review's aim was to present the uses of SE and advances in the field.

Authors response: Yes, we deleted this and emphasized the aim of the Letter to editors in the revision.

3. Your LTE's aim is to point out some of the potential limitations of this valuable tool. • Please delete all of paragraph 2 (including and until "The methods used...and West Virginia.)

Authors response: Thank you. We deleted part of paragraph 2, and keep the few well-known examples that applied spatial epidemiology approaches in research and in public health practice.

- I also recommend omitting the first two sentences of the third paragraph beginning with the sentence.: "A number of studies..." • Please add a final paragraph of 2-3 sentences of concluding and summary remarks. • Incomplete sentence: Please rewrite the sentence beginning with "However, similar to the other disciplines..." since it is an incomplete sentence. • Please give a specific example of ecological fallacy, not just citations.

Authors response: Yes, we have deleted the sentences and added a conclusion to the end of the last paragraph.

- Please replace "extremely" with "vary widely among" • The incomplete sentence (third example of issues) needs to be changed. • Replace "last but not least" with "lastly"

Authors response: Yes, we have corrected this.

References • The references ought to be presented in a consistent format (e.g., use of et al. vs. complete list of authors' names). Please revise.

Authors response: Yes, we followed the process and used the journal provided check and update for reference.

• A citation is needed for the sentence beginning with "A number of studies have demonstrated..."

Authors response: To have a short version of the Letter, we have deleted this sentence in the resubmission.

Figure • The figure should be deleted as it does not support the purpose of the LTE.

Authors response: Yes, we have deleted it.

Reviewer #2:

**Scientific Quality:** Grade A (Excellent)

**Language Quality:** Grade A (Priority publishing)

**Conclusion:** Accept (High priority)

**Specific Comments to Authors:** The article is very quality complements the main material. The questions and issues raised in the letter undoubtedly contribute to the main manuscript. No comments. I recommend for publication in the presented form.

Authors response: Thank you for the support.

Reviewer #3:

**Scientific Quality:** Grade B (Very good)

**Language Quality:** Grade A (Priority publishing)

**Conclusion:** Accept (General priority)

**Specific Comments to Authors:** The manuscript has written well.

Authors response: Thank you for the support.

Reviewer #4:

**Scientific Quality:** Grade D (Fair)

**Language Quality:** Grade A (Priority publishing)

**Conclusion:** Accept (High priority)

**Specific Comments to Authors:** No comments as this is letter to editor

Authors response: Thank you for the support.

Reviewer #5:

**Scientific Quality:** Grade A (Excellent)

**Language Quality:** Grade B (Minor language polishing)

**Conclusion:** Accept (High priority)

**Specific Comments to Authors:** The article was excellent, however, a minor typo are occurs and subjected to be revised. For example, in paragraph 2, written "PM2.5 pollution ".. ? It need to be corrected.

Authors response: Thank you for the comment. Based on a comment from Reviewer 1, we have deleted these sentences in the resubmission.

Reviewer #6:

**Scientific Quality:** Grade C (Good)

**Language Quality:** Grade B (Minor language polishing)

**Conclusion:** Accept (General priority)

**Specific Comments to Authors:** Please find my minor revision comments in attached file.

Authors response: Thank you very much. We agree and have followed your comments in the resubmission.

#### **4 LANGUAGE POLISHING REQUIREMENTS FOR REVISED MANUSCRIPTS SUBMITTED BY AUTHORS WHO ARE NON-NATIVE SPEAKERS OF ENGLISH**

As the revision process results in changes to the content of the manuscript, language problems may exist in the revised manuscript. Thus, it is necessary to perform further language polishing that will ensure all grammatical, syntactical, formatting and other related errors be resolved, so that the revised manuscript will meet the publication requirement (Grade A).

**Authors are requested to send their revised manuscript to a professional English language editing company or a native English-speaking expert to polish the manuscript further. When the authors submit the subsequent polished manuscript to us, they must provide a new language certificate along with the manuscript.**

Once this step is completed, the manuscript will be quickly accepted and published online. Please visit the following website for the professional English language editing companies we recommend:

<https://www.wjnet.com/bpg/gerinfo/240>.

## **5 ABBREVIATIONS**

In general, do not use non-standard abbreviations, unless they appear at least two times in the text preceding the first usage/definition. Certain commonly used abbreviations, such as DNA, RNA, HIV, LD50, PCR, HBV, ECG, WBC, RBC, CT, ESR, CSF, IgG, ELISA, PBS, ATP, EDTA, and mAb, do not need to be defined and can be used directly.

The basic rules on abbreviations are provided here:

- (1) Title:** Abbreviations are not permitted. Please spell out any abbreviation in the title.
- (2) Running title:** Abbreviations are permitted. Also, please shorten the running title to no more than 6 words.
- (3) Abstract:** Abbreviations must be defined upon first appearance in the Abstract. Example 1: Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). Example 2: *Helicobacter pylori* (*H. pylori*).
- (4) Key Words:** Abbreviations must be defined upon first appearance in the Key Words.
- (5) Core Tip:** Abbreviations must be defined upon first appearance in the Core Tip. Example 1: Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). Example 2: *Helicobacter pylori* (*H. pylori*)
- (6) Main Text:** Abbreviations must be defined upon first appearance in the Main Text. Example 1: Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). Example 2: *Helicobacter pylori* (*H. pylori*)

**(7) Article Highlights:** Abbreviations must be defined upon first appearance in the Article Highlights.

Example 1: Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC).

Example 2: *Helicobacter pylori* (*H. pylori*)

**(8) Figures:** Abbreviations are not allowed in the Figure title. For the Figure Legend text, abbreviations are allowed but must be defined upon first appearance in the text. Example 1: A: Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) biopsy sample; B: HCC-adjacent tissue sample. For any abbreviation that appears in the Figure itself but is not included in the Figure Legend textual description, it will be defined (separated by semicolons) at the end of the figure legend. Example 2: BMI: Body mass index; US: Ultrasound.

**(9) Tables:** Abbreviations are not allowed in the Table title. For the Table itself, please verify all abbreviations used in tables are defined (separated by semicolons) directly underneath the table.

Example 1: BMI: Body mass index; US: Ultrasound.

## 6 EDITORIAL OFFICE'S COMMENTS

Authors must revise the manuscript according to the Editorial Office's comments and suggestions, which are listed below:

### **(1) Science editor:**

This is a Letter to the Editor on the article published in WJD 2021;12(7):1042, entitled: Spatial epidemiology of diabetes: Methods and Insights. In general, this letter make an contribute to the main manuscript, and provided some interesting question and add some useful information for spatial epidemiology. The topic of this paper is interesting, but there are some concerns. However, the letter may need be shortened and avoid repeating the points raised in the original manuscript.

Language Quality: Grade B (Minor language polishing)

Scientific Quality: Grade D (Fair)

Authors response: Yes, we have shortened the Letter, including the exclusion of Figure 1 (suggested from Reviewer 1).

### **(2) Company editor-in-chief:**

I have reviewed the Peer-Review Report, full text of the manuscript, and the relevant ethics documents, all of which have met the basic publishing requirements of the World Journal of Diabetes, and the manuscript is conditionally accepted. I have sent the manuscript to the author(s) for its revision according to the Peer-Review Report, Editorial Office's comments and the Criteria for Manuscript Revision by Authors.

Please provide decomposable Figures (in which all components are movable and editable), organize them into a single PowerPoint file. Please check and confirm whether the figures are original (i.e. generated de novo by the author(s) for this paper). If the picture is 'original', the author needs to add the following copyright information to the bottom right-hand side of the picture in PowerPoint (PPT): Copyright ©The Author(s) 2022. If an author of a submission is re-using a figure or figures published elsewhere, or that is copyrighted, the author must provide documentation that the previous publisher or copyright holder has given permission for the figure to be re-published; and correctly indicating the reference source and copyrights. For example, "Figure 1 Histopathological examination by hematoxylin-eosin staining (200 ×). A: Control group; B: Model group; C: Pioglitazone hydrochloride group; D: Chinese herbal medicine group. Citation: Yang JM, Sun Y, Wang M, Zhang XL, Zhang SJ, Gao YS, Chen L, Wu MY, Zhou L, Zhou YM, Wang Y, Zheng FJ, Li YH. Regulatory effect of a Chinese herbal medicine formula on non-alcoholic fatty liver disease. World J Gastroenterol 2019; 25(34): 5105-5119. Copyright ©The Author(s) 2019. Published by Baishideng Publishing Group Inc[6]". And please cite the reference source in the references list.

Authors response: Based on a comment from Reviewer 1, we have deleted the Figure in the revision,

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Please click and download the [Format for authorship, institution, and corresponding author guidelines](#), and further check if the authors names and institutions meet the requirements of the journal.

### **Step 2: Manuscript Information**

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Please revise the references according to the [Format for References Guidelines](#), and be sure to edit the reference using the reference auto-analyser.

**Reminder:** It is unacceptable to have more than 3 references from the same journal. To resolve this issue and move forward in the peer-review/publication process, please revise your reference list accordingly.

### **Step 5: Footnotes and Figure Legends**

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Best regards,

Lian-Sheng Ma, Editorial Office Director, Company Editor-in-Chief, Editorial Office

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