

Reviewer's report

Title: A cross-sectional study of the association between persistent organochlorine pollutants and diabetes

Version: 1 **Date:** 21 September 2005

Reviewer: Arnold Schechter

Reviewer's report:

General

The manuscript addresses an important issue and is of sufficient quality to merit publication

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

None

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

The authors use the term "experimental evidence" without defining or elaborating. They should do so.

In the introduction, might not the authors wish to add "genetic factors" to their list of "main factors"?

On page 4, I am not entirely happy with the use of a review article only rather than seminal articles to make a point.

I wish the authors had used more than one PCB congener. Do they have others? If so, could they include these? I would like to have seen at least some discussion of dioxin like PCBs and none dioxin like PCBs in the manuscript. The authors mention dioxins but do not discuss dioxin toxic equivalents even in their review of the literature.

Not having access to medical records is a weakness in their methodology. Why did they not have such access, at least to establish diagnosis but also for BMI at age 25, which seems quite difficult to do from memory if the mean age is in the 60's.

I missed the DeVito toxicology studies relating to lipid metabolism and diabetes. I wonder if review of this work might contribute to the manuscript.

In stating that diabetes can alter the pharmacokinetics of some drugs it would be helpful to inform the readers as to the specifics.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests to the best of my knowledge.