January 26, 2021

Anna F. Dominiczak, MD  
Editor-in-Chief   
***Hypertension***

Dear Dr. Dominiczak,

On behalf of my co-authors, I would like to submit our manuscript entitled “Predicted cardiovascular risk for US adults with diabetes, chronic kidney disease, and ≥65 years of age overall and with stage 1 hypertension” for consideration as an Original Investigation in ***Hypertension****.* We previously submitted the attached manuscript to ***Circulation****,* and Dr. Hill encouraged us to submit the manuscript for consideration for publication in ***Hypertension***.

The 2017 American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association blood pressure (BP) guideline recommends using 10-year predicted atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease (ASCVD) risk to guide decisions to initiate antihypertensive medication. We set out to determine if the majority of US adults in subgroups defined by diabetes, chronic kidney disease (CKD), and age ≥65 years have high ASCVD risk (i.e., 10-year predicted ASCVD risk ≥10% or clinical CVD), and estimate the age-adjusted probability of having high ASCVD risk. We found that most US adults with diabetes, CKD, or age ≥65 years had high ASCVD risk. However, many with stage 1 hypertension and diabetes or CKD did not. We consider that the current manuscript merits publication in the ***Hypertension***as these results have high clinical relevance and support the ACC/AHA guideline’s recommendation to compute 10-year predicted risk for all adults with hypertension.

Drs Muntner and Jaeger receive support through grant R01HL144773 from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute and grant 15SFRN2390002 from the American Heart Association. Dr. Hardy receives support through R01HL139716 from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. Dr. Bundy receives support through K12HD043451 from the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. Dr. Whelton receives support through P20GM109036 from the Centers for Research Excellence grant from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences. Dr. Muntner has received research support and research honoraria from Amgen, Inc. unrelated to this paper. As a group, we have no other conflicts of interest to report. All co-authors have contributed to the submitted manuscript and meet the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) criteria for authorship. All authors have read and approved the submission of the present manuscript, which has not been published and is not being considered for publication elsewhere, in whole or in part, in any language.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions or correspondence on this manuscript.

Sincerely,

**Byron C. Jaeger, PhD**

University of Alabama at Birmingham

327M Ryals Public Health Building

1665 University Blvd

Birmingham, Alabama 35294-0022

Email: [bcjaeger@uab.edu](mailto:bcjaeger@uab.edu)