The Editor- Thyroid

Dear Editor

Re - CLINICAL PARAMETERS CORRELATE BETTER WITH THYROID HORMONE LEVELS THAN WITH TSH LEVELS: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW AND META-ANALYSIS

This work challenges the conventional basic framework of the assessment of thyroid function- i.e. the emphasis on TSH levels. In particular the concept of subclinical thyroid dysfunction is shown to be flawed, such that further research into borderline thyroid function needs realignment with a more accurate physiological understanding. This work is empiric and is based on our earlier work in the field of physiological (including thyroid) regulation.

The work is long on account of an extensive discussion. In the discussion we give attention to the meaning of our empiric findings, but in addition explain how a more contemporary understanding of regulation underpins our findings, and how the theoretical basis of the conventional assessment of thyroid function is erroneous. We also discuss the relevance of our findings to trials exploring therapeutic interventions. All of this discussion serves to define the scope of the implications of our findings, and to forestall any objections which might be based on flawed basic concepts.

We would expect this work to upset some workers attached to the current dogma. Some reviewers may have difficulty with such a major revision of current concepts. This has been our experience previously with our publications. Not yet however has there been a substantive scientific objection to our methods and conclusions. We would ask that any non-scientific, emotive reviews be rejected by the editorial staff. We have suggested reviewers not directly wedded to the current paradigm to hopefully avoid this possibility.

We trust you find this work suitable for publication in Thyroid. It concerns a topical subject, it is novel, and has been performed as rigorously and conservatively as possible. The conclusions, in our minds, are inescapable.