Reviewer's report

**Title:** New directions in childhood obesity research: how a comprehensive biorepository will allow better prediction of outcomes.

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 28 August 2010

**Reviewer:** Alison Ventura

**Reviewer's report:**

Major Compulsory Revisions
None. I felt this manuscript was well written and informative.

Minor Essential Revisions

1. The authors should add more information on the longitudinal component of this biorepository. How often will follow-ups occur? Have any follow-ups occurred yet? What information will be collected in the follow-ups? Will the investigators aim to obtain equally spaced assessments from all participants?

2. How are overweight and obesity being defined for the purposes of this biorepository? This definition should be provided to ensure continuity of the conceptualization of childhood overweight and obesity.

3. How will the investigators measure and account for any treatment these overweight children may undergo while also enrolled in the COBRA longitudinal study? I imagine that if these are treatment-seeking children, they will be subject to interventions that may influence their health outcomes. How will their participation in and adherence to these interventions be accounted for?

4. The authors state children will be followed until age 18; is there a minimum age for the sample recruited?

5. Within the environmental measures, please provide more detail as to what is assessed by the "parent questionnaire" and "child questionnaire." I think Table 1 and the text regarding these questionnaires could be better linked and clarified. Is data being collected for both parents or just one?

Discretionary Revisions

1. The authors mention in the limitations section that the recruitment of treatment-seeking overweight and obese children may bias their sample. Do the investigators have plans to seek out and recruit non-treatment-seeking overweight and obese children? This addition to the study protocol would greatly increase the generalizability of the biorepository.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.