Reviewer's report

Title: Level and intensity of objectively assessed physical activity among pregnant women from urban Ethiopia

Version: 4 Date: 3 December 2012

Reviewer: Frida Renström

Reviewer's report:

I thank the authors for their thoughtful and comprehensive replies! The revised version of the paper reads much better and I have nothing to add beside the few minor comments below the authors might want to consider.

Discretionary Revisions

Muscular fitness (grip strength), para 2, row 7: …‘whose activity level may not be to pregnant women living in rural areas.’ Seems to be a word (comparable?) missing after ‘be’?

Minor Essential Revisions

1. I completely agree with the authors in that the interpretability of log transformed beta coefficients is very difficult. My concern is that reporting the anti-log beta-coefficient is probably fine as long as it is considered a ‘mean effect size’ (i.e. will most likely be a comparable value on the log or linear scale), whereas if the intention is to calculate differences in example AEE contributable to different gestational age, using the derived log beta-coefficient on a linear scale (i.e. the anti-log beta) will not be entirely correct since this effect estimate is only valid on a log scale.

2. Table 4 and 5 is much more straightforward to interpret in the revised manuscript. Two points of potential confusion about Table 5 might remain:

i) From the description in the ‘Methods’ section I interpret table 5 as showing the remaining variables left in the regression model that significantly add to the explained variance in the dependent variable after the backward elimination process. If indeed the case, I would make this point more clear in the table (not just state ‘based on multiple regression analysis’), and also state which variables that was initially included in each model in the ‘Methods’ section (or maybe highlight them in Table 4).

ii) The fact that age (and fitness) is adjusted for in the models, does that mean that they were forced in the model, or did they significantly add to the explained variance (as one would expect age would for sleeping heart rate) as well? If the latter, I suggest age (and fitness) is listed with the other independent variables in the table for clarity.
Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests