Reviewer's report

Title: Atkins diet for the developing baby? Effects of a ketogenic diet during pregnancy on embryonic growth in the mouse

Version: 4 Date: 6 March 2013

Reviewer: Liu Lin Thio

Reviewer's report:

Sussman et al. have addressed most of my points sufficiently, but two important ones remain, which I raised in my first review.

Major Compulsory Revisions:

1. Title. The authors elected to use “Atkins diet” in the title to “elicit interest and attract the attention of the average reader.” This reason is not compelling because the authors should rely on the merits of their study rather than a catchy title to generate interest. Furthermore, the title is confusing to those who use dietary therapies clinically because the ketogenic diet and the Atkins diet are distinct.

2. The Discussion implies that the findings result primarily from ketosis. However, the authors have not provided data to exclude the possibility that macronutrient and micronutrient deficiencies contribute to their results. The argument that the dams had ad lib access to chow does not exclude this possibility.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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.