Reviewer's report

Title: Pre-pregnancy body mass index and weight gain: Where is the tipping point for preterm birth?

Version: 2 Date: 1 April 2013

Reviewer: Maria Regina Torloni

Reviewer's report:

The authors are to be complimented for their thorough review of their manuscript and the much improved version submitted.

They performed all of the MAJOR COMPULSORY REVISIONS indicated as well as most of the MINOR ESSENTIAL REVISIONS suggested. Their explanations and justifications for the changes performed are appropriate and coherent.

The manuscript should be carefully revised for typing and spelling errors, such as Abstract, p4, line 36 “sever” instead of “severe”, “over weight” instead of “overweight” in some paragraphs, among other error throughout the text. There is also a duplication of sentences on p9, lines 146-149.

Additional MINOR ESSENTIAL REVISIONS which the authors can be trusted to make:

1. In Abstract, Results: I suggest that the 1st sentence of this section be “Among obese women, gaining less weight is protective of spontaneous preterm birth with and without PROM. On the other hand, gaining excessive weight is a risk for indicated preterm birth.” This sentence describes the main finding of the study and is correctly emphasized by the authors in the first paragraphs of their Discussion (lines 290-292) and again repeated in their last paragraph.

1. In Methods (p 9, line 174): Add reference for the “Kotelchuck index” and substitute “adequacy of pregnancy” for “adequacy of prenatal care utilization”, which is the correct description of what this index measures.

2. In Results (p 12, line 206): Add the word “gain” after the end of this sentence: “rates of all sub-types of preterm births decreased with increased gestational weight.”

3. In Results (lines 246-247): Add the words “a reduction” and “preterm birth” to this sentence. “Further, gaining less weight (<7.0 kg) among overweight women was significantly associated with a reduction in indicated preterm birth (OR=0.68, 95% CI=0.41-0.99) compared to normal weight women.”

4. In Results (lines 258-260): Add the word “preterm birth” to this sentence: “Additionally, obese women who gained 9.5-12.7 kg were 2.7 times more likely to have an indicated preterm birth compared to normal weight women...”

5. In Discussion (lines 311-312), the IOM recommendations for gestational
weight gain according to BMI categories should be in Kg instead of pounds.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**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.