Reviewer's report

Title: Current Pattern of Ponderal Indices of Term Small-for-Gestational Age Nigerian Babies

Version: 1 Date: 18 April 2013

Reviewer: Ndubuisi CHUKWUDI

Reviewer's report:

MAJOR COMPULSORY REVISIONS.

1. The Author should introduce such abbreviations as LASUTH, PI, BMI, OFC the very first time the full meanings of each abbreviation is written n the paper. Subsequently the abbreviations can be used in the text etc.

2. How did they determine or confirm the babies who were term?

3. The Author should include the details and supporting references for the "standard defined techniques" used for measuring the weight, length and OFC of the babies.

4. Maternal data were said to have included anthropometry. The Author should clearly state the anthropometric measures undertaken, the techniques used for each and any supporting references.

5. It would also be necessary at this point in time in the paper to indicate that maternal BMI was calculated stating the formula used.

6. Table 1 included anthropometric indices which is at variance with the Title of the Table. The author is advised to include anthropometric indices as part of the title for Table 1.

7. The Author used "empirical cutoff values of maternal anthropometry". How were these determined and (if possible), any supporting references should be included.

8. The last statement in the Results section is not reflected in or supported by Table VI. The Table should either be modified to reflect that statement or the statement may have to be expunged.

9. Table 1 included socioeconomic categories of the babies. How did the Author determine these categories? this should be included in the subjects and methods section with necessary supporting reference(s).

10. In Table II, the numbers and percentages were not shown. The Author only reflected the means +/- SD.

11. The Units of measurement for each of the variables in Table II were not also given. These should be included.

12. The Author should follow strictly the prescribed style of referencing in the Guidelines for Authors.
MINOR ESSENTIAL REVISIONS

13. The following errors in the Reference section should be corrected:

i. Ref. 1 - The list of the contributing authors should be included viz Lee PA, Chernausek SD, Hokken-Koelega ACS, Czernichow P.

ii. Ref. 4 - McCowan LM not McCowen LM.

iii. Ref. 7 - The Journal title is Advances in Neonatal Care not Advanced Neonatal Care.

iv. Ref. 8 - Thoms A not Thomas A.

v. Ref. 8 - retardation not restriction in the Paper title.

vi. Ref. 9 - infants missing after small-for-gestational-age.

vii. Ref. 10 - In the article title, "at" is missing between live births and gestational ages.

viii. Ref. 10 - Year of publication is 1966 NOT 1996.

ix. Ref. 12 - Volume is 227 NOT 277.

x. Ref. 14 - Meis NOT Meiss and Michielutte NOT Michielute.

xi. Ref. 16 - Bakewell NOT Bakerwell and Missouri NOT Miossouri

xii. Ref. 20 - First page number is 423 NOT 432.

xiii. Ref. 22 - Journal Name is Archives of Disease in Childhood NOT Archive of Diseases of Childhood.

DISCRETIONARY REVISIONS

14. i. First line Subjects and Methods, consider using this in place of the.

ii. Consider recasting the sentence starting with "the methods" thus - The methods involved physical examination of the eligible newborn babies during the first .....