Reviewer’s report

Title: Socio-cultural determinants of adiposity and physical activity in preschool children: a cross-sectional study

Version: 1 Date: 28 August 2010

Reviewer: Helen Skouteris

Reviewer’s report:

The aim of this study was to examine the impact of distinct socio-cultural determinants on adiposity, PA, and motor skills in preschool children.

Please provide up to date references to support the claim you make in the first sentence of the Introduction.

You have cited a paper published in the year 2000 to suggest that “the high prevalence remains a great public health concern” (page 5). A much more recent paper is needed to support this claim.

It would be useful to know years of living in Switzerland for migrants within the French speaking and German speaking parts – the effect of regional environment may reflect greater assimilation by migrants living in German speaking parts as opposed to just migrant status.

Also, why were parenting practices not measured? Given that we now know the preschool years are a critical period in childhood for the development of childhood obesity because many of the eating and physical activity habits that contribute to later obesity become established during these years, and the primary social force influencing preschool children is the family, it is surprising that parental practices and belief (parental instrumental behaviours, parental modelling, knowledge of PA) were not included. Your methodology is also limited by the fact that child eating and parent feeding styles/practices were not considered across the French speaking and German speaking parts of Switzerland.

Reference 38 is not complete in Reference List

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'