Reviewer's report

Title: High prevalence of vitamin D insufficiency and its association with obesity and metabolic syndrome among Malay adults in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Version: 2 Date: 28 June 2011

Reviewer: Susan Whiting

Reviewer's report:

1. The last sentence of the abstract should be stronger, i.e., insufficiency associated with younger age, female sex and greater abdominal obesity.

2. It is only logical for older adults to have lower vitamin D status if they have deprived sun exposure (and it takes longer for sun-induced synthesis when elderly) vs. Younger adults. Some reasons why older adults may have less insufficiency are: younger are busier and work indoors/drive cars/generally avoid the sun (e.g., for cosmetic reasons as well); there may be traditional food sources of vitamin D consumed by more older adults than younger; and younger adults may be more likely to be obese. The authors should consider what may be possible for the subjects in their study.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'