**Reviewer’s report**

**Title:** Tuberculosis Disease Severity and Gender are Associated with Reduced Dietary Intake among Adults in Uganda: Cross-sectional Study

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 11 August 2012

**Reviewer:** Anthony Kafatos

**Reviewer’s report:**

This paper is dealing with very important public health topics such as TB, HIV and malnutrition.

The main weakness of the study is that the findings are based on the last 24 hours dietary recall which is not validated by a more reliable weighted food record or by measuring serum micronutrients and nitrogen balance studies. It is not also stated if some of the subjects, at least those with severe TB were hospitalised. In those hospitalised the 24 hours dietary recall reflects the hospital diet.

The large variation in caloric intake by the mild TB patients (3064 kcal) and the non wasted patients with mild TB (3500 kcal) reflects probably under reporting and over reporting.

There is also lack of power calculation in the population sample selection.

The low caloric intake of 567 kcal by two women and the very high caloric intake by 3500 kcal by the non wasted mild TB patients represent only 8 subjects.

There is no description how the 30 control patients without TB and HIV were selected from the community.

Although it is a cross sectional study it could have investigated the social and medical history and the previous nutritional status and disease status of the subjects.

The lower nutrient intake by women in the severe TB is expected because of the lower energy intake.

More sophisticated multivariable analysis could have provided clearer conclusions.

Although the study is dealing with a very important public health issue in a developing country it is not appropriate for publication in the current form because of serious weaknesses.

**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'