Reviewer's report

Title: The value of maternal anthropometric characteristics in predicting low birth weight and preterm birth in Sudanese newborn infants

Version: 3 Date: 29 February 2008

Reviewer: Hidemi Takimoto

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript is much improved. However, there are still some unsatisfactory points.

Major Compulsory Revisions
The authors state that the social class of the mothers were defined by their place of residence. Are there any possibility that the household incomes of these women were more diverse than just classifying into three categories?

There is little meaning in the newly added logistic regression model. First of all, maternal height is the only anthropometric parameter that was not altered by pregnancy. Therefore, there is no wonder that maternal height was the only significant factor contributing to the probability of LBW. Second, as both maternal weight and BMI are probably highly correlated with maternal height, the adequacy of including those three measurements into the model is questioned.

One other thing that is lacking is the information on parity. In general, babies born to first-time mothers are lighter than babies born to parous mothers. Entering the number of prior deliveries may have altered the results.

Minor Essential Revisions
none

Discretionary Revisions
none

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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.