Reviewer's report

Title: Physical activity patterns during pregnancy through postpartum

Version: 1 Date: 4 May 2009

Reviewer: Cheryl Albright

Reviewer's report:

This is a very well written manuscript with a defined question that addresses a clear need in the scientific literature. The methods for recruitment of women and assessment of physical activity are clearly described and justified. The analyses and results are clear and appropriate, other than the omission of p values for the comparison listed below. The discussion and conclusions about the data are well balanced and supported by the data; however, an investigation of the demographic or psychosocial factors that predict the greatest increase in physical activity following delivery would substantially add to this manuscript and its conclusions. Also, the authors need to include in their limitations section the lack of objective measurement of physical activity (via accelerometers).

Major Compulsory Revisions

The authors need to report the p values for the differences between women who provided postpartum physical activity data and those who did not (top of page 5, par. 1, sentence 1).

In the limitations section the authors should mention they did not have an objective measure of physical activity (i.e., accelerometer data).

Minor Essential Revisions

none

Discretionary Revisions

The authors should consider conducting analyses to predict factors associated with a larger increase in physical activity during postpartum period (e.g., parity, BMI, etc.).

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest 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'