Reviewer's report

Title: Tracking of eating patterns and overweight - a follow-up study of Norwegian school children from middle childhood to early adolescence

Version: 2 Date: 9 September 2011

Reviewer: Emma Patterson

Reviewer's report:

The authors have done a good job in addressing the concerns of all three reviewers. The revised manuscript is considerably improved and is, in my opinion, suitable for publication.

My only quibble is that the last sentence in the Conclusion is, while likely correct, quite speculative and not strictly supported by the results of the paper, and also introduces new concepts: "A family diet incorporating regular main meals and a variety of foods, including vegetables, fruits, unrefined cereal products, fish and water, may be more important in encouraging weight control in children than the increased use of fat- and sugar-reduced food products."

A "family diet" (which I assume refers to the home food environment and/or parental dietary habits), was not assessed here, nor were "weight control" strategies studied.

I think the conclusion would be just as effective if the sentence was removed, or if the authors wish to highlight the association seen between the Norwegian diet and weight status it is done in different way.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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.