Reviewer's report

Title: Twenty-four hour metabolic rate measurements utilized as a reference to evaluate several prediction equations for calculating energy requirements in healthy infants

Version: 2 Date: 2 January 2011

Reviewer: mario siervo

Reviewer's report:

Dear Editor

The quality of the manuscript has certainly been improved by the amendments included by the authors during the revision process.

I have only some minor revisions to suggest:

1) There is a typo in the last paragraph of the introduction (dirct)

2) End of introduction. The objectives need to be rewritten. The first and the second sentences basically say the same thing and they could be combined.

3) Sample size Calculation. The new paragraph added to the paper reads more as a response to a reviewer and it seems out of context in the manuscript. In addition, I would have expected that the authors would have provided the precise number of subjects at the specified alpha and beta values derived from their sample size calculations. If not able to provide the details, the sentence could be removed from the manuscript.

4) The authors have removed all the BA graphs and I personally do not agree with this decision. I have looked back at my previous comments and I commented on a potential differential bias of the equations which can only be visualized in the graph and disappears if the data are numerically presented in a table. The authors have not responded in their cover letter to my previous comment and I would invite the authors to consider adding a sentence in their discussion if they believe, like me, that there is the potential for a differential bias for some of the prediction equations tested in the manuscript.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.