Reviewer's report

Title: Mn bioavailability by polarized Caco-2 cells: comparison between Mn gluconate and Mn oxyprolinate.

Version: 2  Date: 5 May 2011

Reviewer: Elad Tako

Reviewer's report:

Effects of Mn Gluconate and Mn oxyprolinate on mitochondrial activity of polarized Caco-2 cells

The revised version of this manuscript is a great improvement. In their letter, authors referred to all point of concern and provided detailed explanation. In addition, figures were modified and are now clear and easy to understand. Authors have added more information and recent citation about the significance of Mn to cellular metabolism and by that increased the depth of the scientific rationale of the study presented.

The current study provides basic/preliminary knowledge concern Mn intestinal uptake, therefore and as authors suggested in their respond, it would be suitable to continue and investigate the cellular mechanisms that are involved with Mn intestinal absorption (i.e relevant transporters).

Minor comments:
1. Abstract needs to be more concise, especially the "Results" paragraph.
2. Background (Page 4) please re write the specific objectives of the study and their significance.
3. Reference list is not consistent, for example Ref # 44.

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'