Reviewer's report

Title: Effects of short-term fructooligosaccharide intake on equol production in Japanese postmenopausal women consuming soy isoflavone supplements: A pilot study

Version: 3 Date: 25 March 2013

Reviewer: Johanna W Lampe

Reviewer's report:

I appreciate the authors's careful response to reviewer comments.

Even if this was only a pilot study, I am still concerned with the approach the investigators used to characterize the impact of FOS on equol production. With serum and spot urine measures, I worry that it may not be possible to quantitate effectively differences in equol production among the equol producers, which can limit the capacity to test the hypothesis. Given your sample of participants, a power calculation of 1) what sample size would be necessary in order to see a difference, or 2) how big the difference would need to be to be detected in this sample, might help the reader.

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I have contributed to research funded by Otsuka Pharmaceutical Ltd.