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:** 5 **Date:** 30 July 2013

**Reviewer:** Johanna W Lampe

**Reviewer's report:**

No further recommendations for revisions. Please note that another interpretation of your data is that FOS is not a substrate for the bacteria responsible for the daidzein to equol conversion. In that regard, all the FOS in the world may have no effect on stimulating growth of equol-producing bacteria. In future, consideration of the metabolic pathways important for equol production may help to guide the choice of prebiotics?

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests