Reviewer’s report

Title: An observational study reveals that neonatal vitamin D is primarily determined by maternal contributions: Implications of a new assay on the roles of vitamin D forms

Version: 1 Date: 10 January 2013

Reviewer: Lizzy Ostler

Reviewer’s report:

The manuscript describes a very interesting study of the levels of different forms of Vitamin D in maternal and neonatal samples, and the potential influence of maternal parameters on neonatal vitamin D levels.

Discretionary revisions

Given the observation that the majority of samples displayed suboptimal levels of Vitamin D, further detail validating the accuracy of the methods, including controls used to ensure significant underestimation is not occurring. Equally, given the postulate that low Vitamin D levels are associated with serious morbidity - further discussion of the apparently healthy status of the donors might be warranted.

I found figure 1 a little difficult to interpret due to the potential interaction between the stacking and the error bars. Alternative presentation might be considered.

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests