Reviewer’s report

**Title**: Trait-specific tracking and determinant of body composition: a 7-year follow-up study of pubertal growth

**Version**: 1  **Date**: 17 November 2008

**Reviewer**: Han C Kemper

**Reviewer’s report:**

This is good manuscript and well defined research question about the tracking coefficients for three tissues over a period of 7 years in pubertal girls.

The data are sound. However there is a big loss of participants in the follow up (sometimes almost 50%) , this has to be discussed.

The whole paper is an important contribution in the tracking phenomenon. Especially the influence of genetics by including mothers and siblings.

Title and abstract are not convey what has been found: I miss in title : girls and in abstract : which percentile position.

Also the illustrations can not be read independently from the article and need more explanation.

**Which journal?**: Appropriate or potentially appropriate for BMC Medicine: an article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

**What next?**: Accept for publication in BMC Medicine after minor essential revisions

**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’