Reviewer's report

Title: Impact of physical activity on energy balance, food intake and choice in normal weight and obese children in the setting of acute social stress: A randomized controlled trial

Version: 4 Date: 6 January 2015

Reviewer: Jana Strahler

Reviewer's report:

@ comment #4. Definition of comfort food: I'm sorry for not making this clear enough. I did not intend to delete the term "comfort food". Your definition in a previous version of this manuscript "foods with high carbohydrate levels that give emotional comfort" does not fit with the most recent literature, as you also pointed out. However, I agree with your actual "high energy level sweet or salty foods" definition.

One last comment on your response "they certainly seem to have a stress-reducing effect": While the effects of stress on food choice are well studied and your study further strengthens this association, the stress-reducing effect of comfort food still needs to be shown (using ecological valid study designs).

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

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