Reviewer's report

Title: Berberine improves glucogenesis and lipid metabolism in nonalcoholic fatty liver disease

Version: 0 Date: 24 Nov 2016

Reviewer: Michael O'Reilly

Reviewer's report:

Zhao and colleagues present a well-designed and informative study on the effect of berberine on metabolic parameters in non-alcoholic fatty liver disease. I have a number of criticisms which should be addressed before acceptance.

1. The manuscript should be proof-read by a English language speaker. There are too many instances of poor grammar

2. Are the effects of berberine not simply down to weight loss induced by this compound? This is an obvious flaw and has not been controlled for or discussed by the authors

3. Please include a reference for the ISI formula described in the methods.

4. The authors report lipogenesis as measured by the uptake of palmitate into hepatic cells. How can this be distinguished simply from free fatty acid uptake, as H-labelled palmitate rather than C-labelled acetate?

Are the methods appropriate and well described?  
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?  
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?  
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes
Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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