Reviewer's report

Title: Proxy markers of serum retinol concentration, used alone and in combination, to assess population vitamin A status in Kenyan children: a cross-sectional study

Version: 3 Date: 9 December 2014

Reviewer: Harold Furr

Reviewer's report:

Minor essential revisions:
Line 60: Sentence is incomplete.

Minor issues not for publication:
Line 317: Remove apostrophe at end of sentence. [I apologize for not catching this in the first version.]

Online Supplemental Material, Figure 1: spelling of “fluorescence” in title of y-axis.

Discretionary revisions:
Lines 219-220: I suggest rewording the sentence to “Results of the two methods diverged with increasing serum retinol concentrations, indicating that the fluorescence method tended to overestimate concentrations at high values.” (This is consistent with lines 265-269.)

Online Supplemental Material:
The addition of the plot of frequency distribution of serum retinol concentrations is welcome. In the figure legend, I suggest that the words “Figure 4” be omitted, or that this figure be moved to the end of the Supplemental Material (I prefer its current location). For clarity, I suggest that the words “.. as determined by HPLC..” be inserted after “..serum retinol concentrations.”

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.
-- Harold C. Furr