Reviewer’s report

Title: Correlates of whole-blood polyunsaturated fatty acids among young children with moderate acute malnutrition

Version: 0 Date: 26 Jan 2017

Reviewer: Samuel Tchum

Reviewer's report:

Reviewer's report: Minor Essential Revisions

1. This is a well written article.

2. From the abstract, the following statements were made;

Under methodology, page 2. Lines 47 - 48. "Whole-blood PUFA was compared with a group of 154 well-nourished 10 month-old Danish children".

Under results, page 2. Lines 50 - 52. "However, whole-blood PUFA were lower than in well-nourished Danish children (28.5±2.8 vs. 30.1±3.5 FA%, p<0.001), specifically n-3 PUFA".

Under conclusions, page 3. Lines 60 - 61. "Children with MAM in Burkina Faso have lower whole-blood PUFA than well-nourished Danish children".

Please these statements mentioned in the abstract were not found in the main paper and also there was no citation or references related to Danish children study.

3. Page 2. Lines 42 - 43 and Page 5. Lines 111 - 112. The author stated that "We conducted a cross-sectional study using baseline data from a nutritional intervention trial among 1609 children with MAM aged 6-23 months in Burkina Faso". Was the data for this cross-sectional study obtained from a baseline data of a retrospective nutritional intervention trial? Please kindly clarify this statement.


5. Page 6. Lines 125 - 126. Please cite. "Fever was defined as an axillary temperature ≥37.5°C".

6. Page 14. Lines 337 - 340. Please cite. "The diversity of correlates such as infection, inflammation, diet, and anthropometry highlight the complexity of factors which may affect
whole-blood PUFA composition in children with MAM, and these factors should be taken into account in studies on PUFA among malnourished children”.

7. The author did not provide any justification for the sample size used for the trial.

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