Reviewer’s report

Title: Identification of novel candidate indicators for assessing zinc status during pregnancy in mice from microarray data

Version: 0 Date: 04 Oct 2018

Reviewer: Marina Galvez-Peralta

Reviewer's report:

The authors summarize the microarray data of female mice exposed to low Zn diet.

Although the reviewer appreciate the effort on that direction, the manuscript on its actual form lack of significant information:

1. Length of zinc deficient diet on the female mice. Were they exposed prior gestation, during whole gestation? The methods section is too superficial.
2. What else was on the mice diet? It is know how heavy metals (Cadmium) or other metals could compete for Zn absorption.
3. The introduction is very weak. Authors mention ZIP1 and very brief effects of Zn deficiency. There are 14 ZIP transporters and so ZnT transporters. Many more deficiencies associated with Zn deficiency than the ones listed.
4. It is hard to extrapolate mice to human data, since the genetic origin of the placenta differs between mice and humans (mainly from the fetus vs. mainly from the mother).

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

No

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

No

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

No
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:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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