

## ANSWERING REVIEWERS



August 5, 2014

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 11601-review.doc).

**Title:** Changes in the colon microbiota and intestinal cytokine gene expression following minimal intestinal surgery

**Author:** Susan Lapthorne, Julie E. Bines, Fiona Fouhy, Nicole L. Dellios, Guineva Wilson, Sarah L. Thomas, Michelle Scurr, Catherine Stanton, Paul D. Cotter, Prue M. Pereira-Fantini.

**Name of Journal:** *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 11601

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

1 Format has been updated. The article has been assigned as a “clinical control study” according to the guidelines outlined in the ESPS-Column scope note. The referencing style has been updated to match the style of WJG. The COMMENTS section has been completed.

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer

(1) The main title of the article has been changed to “Changes in the colon microbiota and intestinal cytokine gene expression following minimal intestinal surgery”. Accordingly, the running title has also been changed to “Colonic microbial changes following minor surgery”.

(2) As requested the abstract length has been shortened to meet the journal guidelines. Specifically, the number of words in the conclusion has been reduced from 27 words to 22 words. The number of words in the aim (19 words), materials and methods (176 words) and results (260 words) section remain unchanged as they meet the outlined guidelines.

(3) As requested by the reviewer, the introduction has been shortened by approximately one third (540 words original to 344 words currently).

(4) As requested by the reviewer we have reduced the length of the discussion by 20% via combining inflammatory sections and also by removing the discussion regarding the limitations of the study imposed by the use of antibiotics in both control and treatment groups. We have included the following alterations to the discussion, as suggested by the reviewer; (i) justification of our study of the colonic microbial population rather than the small intestinal population (para 2), (ii) additional discussion on the relevance of bacteria diversity in disease states (para 2), (iii) clearer reference to the association between specific bacterial species and the immune response (para 3), (iv) we have suggested further studies include study of the small intestine microbiota (para 4)

(5) The study primers have been moved from being supplementary table 1, to table 1 (i.e. included within the manuscript as requested)

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely yours,

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