

Dear Editor,

On behalf of all authors, I would like to thank you for the positive comments on our manuscript entitled “Influence of environmental factors in the development of inflammatory bowel diseases” by Legaki et al. Changes were made as suggested according to the reviewers comments. Following are in detail our replies to the reviewers’ comments.

**Reviewer No 01489500**

1. Language was corrected by an English native speaking colleague as suggested
2. We rephrase the sentences as suggested. “old friend’s theory” is the hygiene hypothesis. In 2003 Graham Rook proposed the old friends hypothesis as term for this.

**Reviewer No 02456810**

1. We add paragraph for microbiota as suggested (page 12)
2. We also add a Figure (figure 1) with the main risk factors as suggested

**Reviewer No 2445436**

1. typos corrected as suggested
2. A chapter regarding microbiota was added (page 12)

**Reviewer No 36023**

Thank you for your positive comments.

**Reviewer No 1574245**

It is not possible to a minireview to discuss all those factors, so we focused on more common. However we add comments about heavy metals and antibiotic use.

We hope we have addressed the issues and comments of the revision. Any additional changes are welcome. For any further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you very much for your interest to our work.

Sincerely

Maria Gazouli, Assist Prof (Number ID: 00004011)

School of Medicine, University of Athens, Greece  
Michalakopoulou 176, Athens 11527, Greece  
e-mail: [mgazouli@med.uoa.gr](mailto:mgazouli@med.uoa.gr)