

Dear Reviewer and Editor,

Thanks again for the comments on our manuscript “Characterizing the composition of intestinal microflora by 16S rRNA gene sequencing” (Manuscript NO: 50819). We have read and considered all of the comments and revised the manuscript based on the reviewer’s recommendations. Our point-by-point responses to each reviewer’s comments are appended below. The parts of our revision have been highlighted in the article, including adding Jun-Xiao Zhou to the author, who is responsible for the contribution and revision of the article. Moreover, due to the limitation of the number of words in the title, the title in the uploaded English editing certificate is not quite the same as that in the manuscript, but the content of the manuscript has not changed. At last, may I ask what “50819-Video” on the list means?

Thanks again for your help to our paper processing. We are looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Best regards,

Hong Wang (on behalf of all authors)

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Point-by-point Responses to Reviewer Comments

Reviewer (Comments for the Author):

1. Page 1 line 29: "Please provide the grant application form(s) or certificate of funding agency for every grant."

RE: Thank you very much, and we have submitted the grant application form and certificate of funding agency.

2. Page 2 line 3: "Please provide the approval file of Institutional review board, and state it on the title page."

RE: Thank you very much, and we have submitted the approval file of Institutional review board, and state it on the title page.

3. Page 2 line 6: "Please provide the approval file of Institutional animal care and use committee, and state it on the title page."

RE: Thank you very much, and no animal is involved in this article.

4. Page 2 line 12: "Please add Data sharing statement."

RE: No additional data are available.

5. Page 2 line 14: "Please download and complete the ARRIVE checklist to ensure that the manuscript meets the requirements of the ARRIVE Guidelines."

RE: Thank you very much. We have download and read the ARRIVE checklist. And no animal is involved in this article.

6. Page 2 line 18: "The corresponding author's contact information should be provided... by a period and a space. "

RE: Corrected.

7. Page 3 line 3: "The purpose of the study should be stated clearly, with no or minimal background information."

RE: Okay, thanks. We have rewritten the aim in a correct form.

8. Page 3 line 4 and Page 3 line 8: add "It is prospective case control study from October 2014 to June 2015 involving healthy volunteers and Patients with advanced CRA." and add " End points measured were operational taxonomic unit of the intestinal flora, its abundance and its diversity (alpha and beta types)."

RE: Okay, thank you for your valuable comments.

9. Page 3 line 11: "The results should be no less than 120 words, and it should describe the key findings...how the statistical values were obtained."

RE: Thank you very much, and we have revised the results.

10. Page 3 line 24: "The conclusion should be no more than 30

words.”

RE: Thank you very much, and we have revised the conclusion.

11. Page 3 line 24: “In the conclusion paragraph of the abstract, please delete the numbers of the statements (1., 2., 3.). ”

RE: Correct.

12. Page 4 line 11: “Please offer the audio core tip.”

RE: Okay. The audio core tip have been submitted.

13. Page 4 line 24: Correct “Advanced adenoma has a high risk for CRC ^[1]” to “Advanced adenoma has a high risk for CRC^[1]”

RE: Correct.

14. Page 9 line 25: Please provide a full explanation for the acronyms (e.g. paragraph 2.2.5 “LEfse”) .

RE: Correct.

15. Page 11 line 19: “In the discussion section, it would be interesting to discuss if there is a possible relationship between inflammatory markers levels and changes in intestinal microflora

due to diet or other factors (Telle-Hansen VH et al, Nutrients 2018;10(11):1783; Godos J et al World J Gastroenterol. 2017 Mar 14;23(10):1909-1919; Uccello M et al BMC Surg. 2012).”

RE: Thank you for your valuable comments, we have read the articles that you advised and add something interesting which are highlighted in the article.

16. Page 12 line 2: “I would include a statement in the conclusion paragraph on the possible clinical or surgical application of the results and future direction of these research topic.”

RE: Thank you for your valuable comments, we have rewritten the sentences.

17. Page 12 line 8: Add “article highlights”

RE: Correct.

18. Page 12 line 21: “Please check and confirm that there are no repeated references!”

RE: Okay. We have checked the references.

19. Page 15 line 1: Please provide the decomposable figure of figures, whose parts are all movable and editable, organize them

into a PowerPoint file, and submit as "Manuscript No. -Figures.ppt".

RE: Okay. We have submitted the "50819-Image File".

20. Page 15 line 2: "Please explain all the abbreviations of each figure/table under each piece of figure/table legends."

RE: Correct.

21. Page 21 line 18: "Table 2, please it should be useful to include only three numbers after the 0 in the P value."

RE: Correct.