

Point-by-point response to the reviewer

Reviewer #1:

1) There are no spaces between words in many sentences.

Response: this was corrected.

2) The explanation of Figure 8 “Scaled PCA plot of fecal samples before and after transplantation for placebo ...”, should it be “Scaled PCA plot of fecal samples before and 1 month after transplantation for placebo”? “Fecal samples before and after transplantation...”, should it be “Fecal samples before and 1 month after transplantation...”? And the same changes are required in the explanations of Figure 10,11,12,13.

Response: this was corrected.

3) The explanation of Figure 16: “Figure 16. Serotonin-immunoreactive cells in the colon of a healthy subject (arrows) and in a patient with IBS (B)”, should it be : “Figure 16. Serotonin-immunoreactive cells (arrows) in the colon of a healthy subject (A) and in a patient with IBS (B).”?

Response: this was corrected.

Science editor:

«(5) Self-cited references: There are 21 self-cited references. The self-referencing rates should be less than 10%. Please keep the reasonable self-citations that are closely related to the topic of the manuscript, and remove other improper self-citations. If the authors fail to address the critical issue of self-citation, the editing process of this manuscript will be terminated; «

Response: All self-citation is proper. One should keep in mind that this frontier is largely based on the pioneer work of our group and most of the illustration are from our previously published papers and should be referred to otherwise we cannot use them. Any reduction in the self-citation would result in imbalanced presentation and omitting a large number of illustrations that are important for this frontier.

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Response: this was done.