

February 04, 2014

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 6651-review.doc).

**Title:** Colon cancer-associated B2 *Escherichia coli* colonize gut mucosa and promote cell proliferation

**Author:** Jennifer Raisch, Emmanuel Buc, Mathilde Bonnet, Pierre Sauvanet, Emilie Vazeille, Amélie de Vallée, Pierre Déchelotte, Claude Darcha, Denis Pezet, Richard Bonnet, Marie-Agnès Bringer, Arlette Darfeuille-Michaud

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

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 6651

We are grateful to the Editor and the Reviewers for their guidance in the revision of the manuscript. The manuscript has been improved according to reviewers' and editor's comments and we hope to have satisfied their requirements.

The revised version of this article has been proofread by a native English translator (cf attached certificate).

Typesetting of the manuscript has been modified according to the editor comments.

**Answer to the reviewer n°00291364**

*Its interesting that 11G5 infection could be developed in a transgenic model to understand the interactions of the bacteria and epithelial cells with human targets. measuring the plasma endotoxin and IL-6 levels in these mouse models to determine the extent of epithelial damage will be useful as the systemic inflammation can have adverse effect on the host immune system.*

We thank the reviewer for this comment. We have performed mucosa IL-6 dosages but we did not observe significant results. As suggested it would have been informative to make such analyses in the sera of these mice but we do not have any more sera corresponding to these experiments.

**Answer to the reviewer 02533963**

1. 205 please clarify gentamicin dose or amount

2. In mouse model infection section, how did you orally challenge the  $2.10^8$  bacteria to the mice? (i.e. gastric lavage vs. drinking water, etc.)

According to the reviewer comments, the text in the "Materials and Methods" section has been modified (see modifications on page 10, line 246 for point 1 and on page 11, lines 286-287 for point 2).

3. On figure legend 2, I would re-write the figure legend to make it shorter and clear. For example: Biofilm formation on human I-407 intestinal epithelial cells of colon cancer-associated B2 of *E. coli* strains (11G5) and diverticulosis-associated B2 *E. coli* strain (12H1) were compared to this of the non-pathogenic K-12 *E. coli* strain (C600) and the biofilm produced AIEC (LF82). A. no change..... B. Bacteria were stained using .... Etc..

4. Figure legend 1&3 are too long. Some of the methods don't need to be repeated here. Also, statistical report can be simplified. Statistical technique can be elaborate more on methods section. Also, some of the *p* values are missing the symbol  $>$ ,  $<$ , or  $=$ .

Legends of Figure 1, 2 and 3 have been shortened and modified accordingly to the reviewer comments

(see modifications on pages 29 and 30). Statistics were revised in legends and in the “Materials and Methods” section (see modifications on page 13, lines 339 to 341). Symbols for p values were checked in throughout the text.

Done

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

*Arlette Darfeuille-Michaud*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'ADM' with a horizontal line underneath.

*February 04, 2014*