

Conflict-of-interest statement:

Name of journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 33550

Manuscript Type: ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Title: Couples of patients with ulcerative colitis exhibit a biologically relevant dysbiosis in fecal microbial metacommunities

In this study, no conflicts of interest exist.

Xiaochen Bo

Best Regards,

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4 How did the authors deal with the pre-study hypothesis?

In this study, 16S rRNA amplicon sequencing and biological information analysis were used to deal with the pre-study hypothesis.

5 What are the novel findings of this study?

In this study, we found that microbial composition may be impacted in healthy couples cohabiting with UC patients, especially in terms of microbiota dysbiosis in healthy couples.

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