

June 10, 2013

Dear Editor,

Manuscript Title: Inflammatory Bowel Disease Serology in Asia and the West

Authors: Lani Prideaux, Michael A Kamm, Peter De Cruz, Daniel R van Langenberg, Siew C Ng, Iris Dotan

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 3595

Thank you for considering our paper in World J Gastroenterology. Thank you for the referee's comments and the opportunity to resubmit our article. Please find enclosed the edited manuscript which is submitted both as a marked copy (file name: 3595-review-marked.doc), and a clean copy (file name: 3595-review-clean.doc). The copyright forms have been signed by all authors (file name: 3595-copyright forms).

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers (as outlined below), and in addition, the article format has been updated as suggested, and the references and typesetting were corrected. Please note, the 'clean copy' has the references changed as requested, which was only possible after unlinking the citations.

Please find below the point-by-point response to the referees.

We hope the paper is now suitable for publication and look forward to hearing from you.

Kindest regards

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Response to reviewers:

Reviewer 1:

This is an interesting study of a little studied area in inflammatory bowel disease. The subject matter may be a spring board to further studies and understanding of the

pathogenesis and prognosis of this problem.

Thank you for your positive comments.

Reviewer 2:

The manuscript by Prideaux and colleagues reports the patterns of specific serological tests in small groups from Australia and China.

Specific Comments:

1. The study includes small groups of patients, and even smaller groups of relatives (<10). Although the study is described as a pilot study, this is not until the last sections of the Discussion. The authors should revise the Title and running titles of the work to more clearly illustrate the nature of the work.

Thank you for this comment. We agree that these are preliminary data. We prefer to leave the title and running title unchanged, as this is in fact not a pilot study, but we have amended the text to be more clear that these data require confirmation in a bigger study.

2. There are a number of errors of grammar and construction. These include the first line of the second paragraph of the Intro (page 3 of the word document - page numbers not included)

This line has now been corrected.

3. Bacterial names should be provided in standard fashion

Bacterial names have been corrected. Thank you for your comment.

4. The first parts of the Methods include text that is repeated in the first part of the Results. these details of the numbers of patients should only be included in the Results, with the Methods describing the way these individuals were recruited.

The numbers of patients has now been removed from the methods section as suggested.

5. The text of the Discussion (bottom of page 10) refers to a study by Bernstein et al, without inclusion of any referencing.

The reference was present at the end of the paragraph. It has now been moved up to the beginning of the paragraph.

6. The references should be included with the details as required by the Journal.

The references are now written as required by the journal.

7. The legend/title for Tables 1 and 2 is inadequate and should be more extensive

The titles have been modified to more accurately reflect the nature of the tables.

Reviewer 3:

This is an interesting, well written, epidemiologic study evaluating the prevalence of anti-glycan antibodies in Hong Kong Asian and Australian Caucasian patients. The Authors should better specify inclusion criteria of patients. Did the Authors select consecutive IBD patients regardless disease extension or duration?

Yes, consecutive patients (who consented) were recruited, regardless disease extension or duration. This has now been made clear in the text.