

Answering Reviewers

Reply to Reviewer 1

I am most grateful for the valuable time and efforts you spent on my article. I fully agree with you that this subject is rather formidable and with considerable potential value. It deserves to be handled by a multidisciplinary team with experts in microbiology, gastroenterology, virology, immunology and oncology. However, as long as the COVID-19 pandemic is still raging on, most of our medical profession are stilled deeply embroiled in fighting the virus infection head-on, while maintaining social distancing and trying to stay safe ourselves while helping the pandemic victims as best as we could.

I fully agree with you, that certain parts need to be rewritten and have already done so. Even then I still find the work substandard and unsatisfactory. This is because as an octogenarian former surgeon, I do not have the expertise in the relevant fields, but only 64 years of experience in patient-care and a sincere heart to contribute to fight this world war of all nations vs an extremely shrew, versatile and dangerous virus.

Last, but not least, I would like to particularly thank you for advising me to include the two seminal papers by Professor Baldi on free fatty acids and short chain fatty acids. They certainly added much weight on the biochemical understanding of the working mechanism of gut microbes.

JSM Leung

Reply to Reviewer 2

Thank you so much for so kindly spend your precious time reviewing my work. In particular thank you for correcting my sloppy habit of not following the rules and putting all specific names of bacteria in italics. I used to loathe a similar sloppy habit among molecular biochemists so that when they forgot this rule I never knew whether they were referring to the protein or its encoding gene bearing the same name. I have since rewrite all such proper nouns in italics.

Overall, I agree that this paper is too superficial for dealing with such an important subject. This is mainly due to the limitation of the author. But I do hope that more experts will take interest along this line and eventually bring this concept into some rewarding fruition. In our present fight against this formidable virus, any opportunity of bringing the infection under control is worth our attention.

JSM Leung