

Format for ANSWERING REVIEWERS



August 25, 2012

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 9310-review.doc).

Title: Use of probiotics in the fight against *Helicobacter pylori*.

Author: Paolo Ruggiero

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Pathophysiology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 9310

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

1 Format has been updated

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer

- (1) Reviewer 00183453. Thank you for the suggestions. The references have been added and mentioned in the Introduction section of the revised manuscript (lines 45-51 if viewing the revised text using "track changes" together with "final: show markup" options).
- (2) Reviewer 00503535. Thank you for your evaluation.
- (3) Reviewer 00503623. The Reviewer's comment about the discussion is correct. A statement has been added of the revised text to stress that relatively scarce data are available on possible direct and specific activity of probiotics on *H. pylori* (lines 193-195), and that indirect is more likely than direct action, due to localization of the microorganisms at different sites (Conclusions section, lines 268-276).
- (4) Reviewer 01429020. 1) The difference between this review and previous similar ones consists essentially in the update with the recent clinical trials, as stated in the Introduction section. 2) Some additional information about the studies included in the meta-analyses have been included (lines 98-103, 112-116, 126-132); however, as better stated in the revised version, the variety of treatments and of probiotics used makes impossible the direct comparison of the different studies each other (lines 92-95). 3) The mechanisms that may explain reduction of side effects were only marginally mentioned because they are not specific for *H. pylori*. In the revised version additional space has been dedicated to discuss this aspect (lines 165-183).
- (5) Reviewer 00073423. All the points raised by this Reviewer are relevant. 1) Table 1 was profoundly revised. The suggested additional details were included, with the exception of those concerning the ref 52 that is not yet available as full text. 2 & 3a) These remain open questions due to the relatively weak current knowledge: comments about these points are included in the revised version (lines 241-252). 3b) See the answer to Reviewer 01429020, point 3. 4) This would exceed the aim of the review: some indications for the use of probiotics can be found in ref 37. 5) This information has been provided in the revised version (line 139-141).

3 References and typesetting were corrected

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Pathophysiology*.

Sincerely yours,



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