

# ESPS Peer-review Report

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

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 10698

**Title:** Fecal Microbes, Short Chain Fatty Acids, and Colorectal Cancer across Racial/Ethnic Groups

**Reviewer code:** 00058482

**Science editor:** Yuan Qi

**Date sent for review:** 2014-04-15 19:36

**Date reviewed:** 2014-05-01 21:19

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A (Excellent)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority Publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B (Very good)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C (Good)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: a great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D (Fair)		BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E (Poor)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	

# COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

It is a well conducted study, focused in an issue with potential importance in the knowledge of the development and prevention of colorectal cancer. No ethical conflicts were detected. Materials and methods: Authors provide a well detailed and arranged description with appropriate statistical methods. The main negative aspect is the small sample size (five individuals from each of four different racial/ethnic groups). Results: The results are clearly showed but the small sample size determines the conclusions regarding the data in the different ethnic groups. Dietary intake by race was analyzed from five individuals of a racial group. The impact of the sample size in the analysis of the relationships between SCFAs and bacterial levels is lower. Discussion is well organized and clearly exposed, though conclusions are limited by the sample size. Some reference to this issue must be enclosed in the discussion.



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### ESPS Peer-review Report

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

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 10698

**Title:** Fecal Microbes, Short Chain Fatty Acids, and Colorectal Cancer across Racial/Ethnic Groups

**Reviewer code:** 00068832

**Science editor:** Yuan Qi

**Date sent for review:** 2014-04-15 19:36

**Date reviewed:** 2014-05-12 09:51

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A (Excellent)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority Publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B (Very good)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C (Good)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: a great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade D (Fair)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E (Poor)		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision

### COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This study is just a preparatory one, because the sample size is too small.

# ESPS Peer-review Report

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

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 10698

**Title:** Fecal Microbes, Short Chain Fatty Acids, and Colorectal Cancer across Racial/Ethnic Groups

**Reviewer code:** 02441672

**Science editor:** Yuan Qi

**Date sent for review:** 2014-04-15 19:36

**Date reviewed:** 2014-06-06 03:09

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A (Excellent)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority Publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B (Very good)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C (Good)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: a great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D (Fair)		BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E (Poor)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision

# COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The subject of manuscript is relevant and contains new information about the association of intestinal microflora changes in different racial/ethnic groups .However, the intestinal ecology is dependent of many factors:level of educational attainment health, environment, diet and genetic background and also socio-economic level. In the United States the difference in socio-economic level is a relevant factor, which was not included in the studied variables.The difference in eating habits and diet could be directly related to socio-economic condition of the volunteers selected for the study. This aspect should be included in the study. In addition, the number of volunteers included in each group is too small for getting results. In the United States the difference in socio-economic level in groups is a relevant factor, which was not included in the studied variables.The difference in eating habits and diet could be directly related to socio-economic condition of the volunteers selected for the study. This aspect should be included in the study. Furthermore, the number of subjects included in each group is too small to obtain conclusive results. Given the relevance of the topic I suggest that the manuscript should be presented as a short communication. The socioeconomic level of each volunteer should also be included in the methodology and discussion of results.

# ESPS Peer-review Report

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

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 10698

**Title:** Fecal Microbes, Short Chain Fatty Acids, and Colorectal Cancer across Racial/Ethnic Groups

**Reviewer code:** 02454257

**Science editor:** Yuan Qi

**Date sent for review:** 2014-04-15 19:36

**Date reviewed:** 2014-06-10 18:37

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A (Excellent)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority Publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B (Very good)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C (Good)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: a great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade D (Fair)		BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E (Poor)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	

# COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The authors focus on clinically relevant issue: The influence of the bacterial flora and the feces composition on the risk profile of developing colorectal cancer. Abstract and coretip are well written. Introduction: Die Introduction is too long. 2.5 pages and 42 references are too much for an introduction. This requires shortening and from paragraph 2 on page 3 to line 3 on page 5 the content should be moved to the discussion section. Materials and Methods: The following remains unclear: ? Why were only 20 participants selected? ? According to which criteria was this number of participants determined? The end of the materials and methods section requires a definition of a clinically relevant difference resulting in a statistical power calculation which therefore would define the necessary number of participants. Results: It remains unclear why the age structure of the participants is this inhomogeneous. In the hispanics groups all participants are between 50 and 59 years old, while in the other ethnic groups the age ranges from 50 to 79. Same holds true for the education level. Both distribution patterns are not further discussed. Discussion: Please refer to the comment provided for the introduction section. Major parts of the introduction are supposed to be placed here. Taken together the statements of the discussion are way too euphoric keeping the really small sample size in mind. As an example: The results presented here suggest that .....for their increased risk for developing colon cancer. (Page 15, Line 15-17). It cannot be denied that the focus of the authors does have significant medical relevance. The deficits described above, especially the inadequate sample size should be eliminated in order to give the manuscript the potential to be published in WJG.