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Prof Lian-Sheng Ma  
Editor-in-chief,  
World Journal of Gastroenterology

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Dear Prof Lian-Sheng Ma,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 9821 Edited.doc ).

**Title:** Irritable Bowel Syndrome: A Microbiome-Gut-Brain Axis Disorder?

**Author:** Paul J. Kennedy, John F. Cryan, Timothy G. Dinan, Gerard Clarke

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

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 9821

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

1 Format has been updated

2 Revisions have been made according to the valuable suggestions of the reviewer- All changes and additions highlighted in yellow

**Reviewer 00004011:**

No changes required

**Reviewer 02462691:**

- I would add “autonomic” function into the list besides motor, sensory and secretory functions (page 2, section “The Microbiome-Gut-Brain Axis”).

*As per suggestion, ‘Autonomic’ added to list*

- Also do check for typo errors, for example page 14, last sentence and page 15, sentence 2.

*Typo’s checked and corrected*

- For figures, would need to quote the sources where available.

*Figures were created specifically for this review by authors*

- For Table 1, it will be easier to follow if the quoted references are mentioned sequentially rather than randomly

*The references are following the Journals numbering format and as some have been referenced earlier in the text in a different context, we cannot list them in sequential order in the table*

- Also for Table 1, legend should be provided for abbreviations not explained in text, for example DGGE.

*Legend is now included*

- For Table 2, change the label “Study” to “Reference” for consistency.

*Label is now changed*

### **Reviewer 00185965**

- There are several points where abbreviations are not explained after first use: 1. page 9 NMDA 2. page 11 HPA, TSST 3. page 15 GABA and GPR 41

*The full term for each abbreviation is now given after each first use.*

### **Reviewer 01557050, 02531403, 00029592**

- No changes required

3 References and typesetting were corrected

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

Sincerely yours,

*Gerard Clarke*

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