

We appreciate the reviewers for their time and thoughtful comments.

Please see below for responses.

Reviewer 3

Comment 1. Would you please kindly harmonize your paper correcting all your typos and grammar errors - I would recommend you something simple like a free-of-charge Grammarly

Response: We have updated the manuscript with the use of Grammarly.

Comment 2. Table 1 is not comprehensive enough. There are a few studies including genetic one which reveal far more microorganisms that might be of importance. Please elaborate it.

Response: We have expanded Table 1 to include microorganisms revealed in atherosclerotic plaques from genetic studies. Please see changes below.

Table 1. Microorganisms Associated with Cardiovascular Disease

Microorganisms Associated with Cardiovascular Disease
C. pneumoniae
P. gingivalis
H. pylori
Lactobacillales
Influenza A
Cytomegalovirus (CMV)
Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)
Enterobacteriaceae
Streptococcus parasanguinis
Collinsella
Veillonella
Aggregatibacter
Firmicutes
Bacteroidetes
Actinobacteria
Fusobacteria
Proteobacteria
Candidate division TM7 single-cell isolate TM7c
Spirochaetes

SR1

Tenericutes

Deinococcus-Thermus

Gemmatimonadetes

Chloroflexi

Neisseria polysaccharea

Neisseria subflava

Waddlia chondrophila

Prevotella

Beggiatoa sp. P5

Alloprevotella rava

Megasphaera micronuciformis

Acidovorax sp. CF316

Atopobium parvulum

Solobacterium moorei

Clostridium difficile