

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

<b>Microorganisms Associated with Cardiovascular Disease</b>
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