Reviewer’s report

Title: Ulcerative colitis and irritable bowel patients exhibit distinct abnormalities of the gut microbiota

Version: 3 Date: 5 October 2010

Reviewer: S H Duncan

Reviewer’s report:

The authors have attended to most of the key points raised in previous reports however there are still a few typographical errors in the current version of the manuscript. I would recommend acceptance of this version

Level of interest: The paper does make some interesting points on the microbial diversity of faecal samples from healthy versus colonic disease subjects and suggests that further work needs to be done in this research area. Given that DGGE was the method of choice to study these samples however it will not give the resolution of certain other molecular methods which is a weakness of the study but this is acknowledged in the manuscript.

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests