Reviewer’s report

Title: Transcript levels of Toll-like receptors 5, 8 and 9 correlate with inflammatory activity in Ulcerative Colitis

Version: 3 Date: 3 February 2011

Reviewer: Ingrid Arijs

Reviewer’s report:

The manuscript by Sanchez-Munoz et al. has investigated the toll-like receptors (TLRs) mRNA expression in colonic mucosal biopsies from 51 UC patients and 33 controls.

The manuscript is sloppy and not clearly written, e.g.:
- The number of the studied patients are different in the text and the table
- Please put all the p-values between brackets.
- Please write the references according to the instructions of the journal.
- The mentioned authors in the text are not correctly written or are not the same as in the references (e.g. Steenholdt, Stanislawowski,)
- Written errors: please check the whole text, e.g. Spearman instead of Sperman, assess instead of assess’, TOLLIP instead of Toll on page 6, chemokines instead of chemokine’s.
- Check the comma’s and points (the authors forgot a point between Smirnoff and Differences under the paragraph ‘Analysis’ in the methods section) in the text, and the construction of some sentences (some are too long and some are not correct, e.g. first sentence on page 4: ‘demonstrated TO BE important’)
- Human gene symbols need to be written in italic
- The text of the methods is not clearly written, especially the qPCR text and analysis text
- The figures are not clear: please add what the x-axis and the y-axis are showing.
- Please give the reason of the endoscopy of the controls
- Please add medication and disease activity (riley scores) in table 1
- In table 1, the values of age are median and interquartile range?
- In the introduction test, the sentence ‘Most studies in IBD have focused only in TLR2, TLR3 and TLR4, but other TLRs expression has not been extensively explored in the colonic mucosa form UC patients’ is mentioned twice.
- Disease is missing in Crohn’s disease on page 3 in second alinea.
- In the discussion, the reference of Cario is missing in the text
- Besides the figures, please make a table of the qPCR results showing the
p-values of the comparisons of TLRs between the different groups.

It is a descriptive manuscript that might show interesting data of TLR transcript expression in UC. It would be a good research manuscript after thorough rewriting the text. Furthermore, it would be nice to confirm the results on protein level and in an independent cohort.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

**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