Reviewer's report

Title: Genetic deletion of dectin-1 does not affect the course of murine experimental colitis.

Version: 2 Date: 2 February 2012

Reviewer: Colin de Haar

Reviewer's report:

The authors have answered all major points to my satisfaction and changed the manuscript accordingly.

Although I do not fully agree with their comment with regard to point 7, I agree with them that this will not be contribute to the conclusion they draw with regard to dectin-1 in mouse colitis models, but instead will give broader information about the role of fungi in colitis models.

Discretionary revision:

Point 8:

With regard to their response:

Blocking the IL-10R does affect the levels of IL-10 by blocking its consumption, but more importantly it inhibit its function. Since IL-10 has recently been shown to be the key cytokine that enables rescue from Hh-colitis, it could still be interesting to see if dectin-1 deficient mice will develop Hh-colits whereas the WT will not. However, the limited difference in IL-10 levels between the WT and dectin-1 deficient macrophages would be a sensible reason not to perform this experiment.

Minor essential revision:

Point 8: The involvement of the adaptive immune response is mentioned here as rationale for the Hh-colitis model, but no data are presented with regard to the adaptive immune response. Since IFN-gamma levels were measured in the colon homogenates (M&M), these data could be included to show that at least this “adaptive parameter” was not affected.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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