Reviewer's report

Title: Studies on a possible role of Escherichia coli in propagation and perpetuation of the gut chronic inflammation in ulcerative colitis.

Version: 1 Date: 13 November 2012

Reviewer: Georgina L Hold

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions
1) Abstract background is inappropriate providing no background information
2) Whole manuscript needs checking for spelling errors and proof reader input recommended. Scientific meaning of certain statements is lacking/lost - example is description of biopsy sampling from patients (abstract methods).
3) Was unchanged tissue sample collection from the same patients as the inflamed tissue.
4) in the abstract it is unclear what was the status of the controls
5) Control group is not a suitable control group consideration should be given to selecting a more appropriate control group.
6) Need histological confirmation of normal mucosa in both UC and IBS controls
7) Information on UC treatment regimens is essential.
8) How long were biopsies frozen for – was it consistent
9) Methods data is insufficient to understand what has been done. For example DNA extraction and PCR strategies along with quantification approaches. It is not possible to understand what has been done.

Minor Essential Revisions
1) E. coli not E.coli (include a space)
2) Change the ‘,’ in p values to ‘.’
3) Always italicise E. coli
4) Change flora to microbiota
5) Reference statement lines 65-67
6) Consistently use abbreviations – sometimes E. coli, other times full name is used.
7) Lines 209-212 – description of E. coli isolation locations is inadequate
8) Q-PCR and culture data highly different in bacterial numbers - provide explanation
9) How can you effectively generate a global cfu count based on methodology used?
**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**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'