Reviewer’s report

Title: Potential blood-based markers of celiac disease

Version: 1 Date: 20 June 2014

Reviewer: Peter Mooney

Reviewer’s report:

Overall an excellent study and the authors should be congratulated for attempting to improve the diagnosis of coeliac disease

Major revision

A couple of points - The correlation between the potential novel markers and Marsh grade was moderate at best and appears to be inferior to the correlation between Marsh grade and current standard serology.

"Significant correlations were observed between Marsh grade (all cases) and levels of 224 CXCL11 protein (Fig. 2; Spearman rank correlation coefficient (rs) = 0.50), and IL21 and IL15 225 mRNA (rs = -0.46 for both, data not shown)."

Can the authors explain this? Was there a cut off value that could reliably diagnose coeliac disease? Providing a sensitivity/specificity analysis of current serology is necessary. Could the authors potentially provide a ROC curve analysis of the novel markers (as well as current serology) as this may provide the best analysis of the differences between the tests

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