Reviewer's report

Title: Reduced diversity and increased virulence-gene carriage in intestinal enterobacteria of coeliac children

Version: 1 Date: 2 July 2008

Reviewer: Denis Krause

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Major

1. This is a very interesting manuscript and is one of the first that describe the virulence attributes of E. coli in relation to celiac disease.
2. Can the authors expand as to why they see a difference in the B2 and D depending on whether the disease is active or not?
3. Like many other forms of chronic GI inflammatory diseases (eg. IBD) E. coli increases in number. Therefore, could the authors speculate as to whether the E. coli they observed is a cause or consequence of inflammation? For example, in IBD there is an increase in E. coli in the B2 and D groups.

Minor

1. Figure 1 is difficult to read. The shading is a bit confusing particularly “healthy”. It may be better to just do the pie graph without the 2D effect as the shading is not the same in the depth perspective.

Discretionary

1. Authors designate celiac disease as CD, which is confusing to the general GI reader because that is the designation of Crohn's disease.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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'