Reviewer’s report

Title: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis: Probiotics in the treatment of Irritable Bowel Syndrome

Version: 2 Date: 21 June 2008

Reviewer: Sue Wilson

Reviewer’s report:

This is a well conducted systematic review which is topical and will be of wide interest. The limitations are appropriately acknowledged.

Major point:
Page 5: “Non English language publications were excluded” – why was this done? Are there relevant publications in other languages? What potential bias has the exclusion of these studies generated?

Minor points:
Page 4: “where possible, lead researchers were contacted for further details” – does this mean all were contacted but only some responded?
Page 7: It would be useful if the reasons for the 8 exclusions was added

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:
Competing interests: have recently completed a trial of probiotics for IBS