Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 4 Date: 18 October 2008

Reviewer: Eamonn M M Quigley

Reviewer’s report:

Thank you for your responses which are most helpful. I still have some niggling issues:

1. I remain troubled by your definition of the primary outcome to include "pain, flatulence, bloating, anxiety and QOL". While it is clear that you insist on adhering to this definition, you must make it absolutely clear that this is your own concept and at odds with all other clinical and clinical research definitions of IBS that I am aware of.

2. I am still unclear in regard to how you selected studies for analysis and presentation of individual symptoms: pain, flatulence and bloating. Did you only select (as the opening line of each of these sections suggests) those studies that reported significant improvement in these symptoms. Surely, this would have been an odd approach.

Minor point: Kajander is mis-spelt in the tables

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

Already declared