Reviewer’s report

Title: Comparative analysis of oral treponeme bacteria associated with periodontal health and disease

Version: 2 Date: 6 February 2013

Reviewer: J. Christopher Fenno

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This revised manuscript reports on genetic diversity of oral treponemes in periodontal health and disease. It represents an important advance in population analysis of a very diverse group of organisms within the even more highly diverse oral microbiome. The results support the hypothesis that specific phylogroups (as well as specific phylotypes within phylogroups) are associated with periodontal status. Furthermore, the detection of higher diversity of disease-associated phylotypes is of interest. This will aid in clarifying the role(s) of these obligately host-associated organisms in health and disease. A next step might be to address quantitation of specific phylogroups or phylotypes, especially within diseased sites.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.