Author's response to reviews

Title: Detection of virulence genes in Malaysian Shigella spp. strains by multiplex PCR assay

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Author's response to reviews:

12 January 2005

Dear Sir,

I have done the necessary changes in the format as recommended in your email on 10 January, 2005.

Response to reviewers who requested minor revisions

Prof Dr Martin Altwegg
1. change sentence in Abstract as suggested
2. As EIEC strain was not tested at all in this work, it's best to leave that out in the abstract. The problem of specificity and the need to include this strain for future work has been mentioned in the DISCUSSION.
3. deleted the paragraph as suggested
4. deleted statement as suggested

Prof SK Bhattacharya
1. I did make any changes recommended as I did not quite understand the statement made by the reviewer "Out of 18 strains, 3 and 1 of the S. flexneri type 3a and 4a, respectively positive for the set genes". We tested 87 strains of S. flexneri, not 18
If we consider only the S. flexneri 3a and 4a, there are 19 strains, not 18
Moreover, the recommended statement by the reviewer is clearly indicated in Table 1.
Hence, to avoid complications, we leave the results as it is.
Thanks
Kwai Lin Thong