Reviewer's report

Title: Confusion over live/dead stainings for the detection of vital microorganisms in oral biofilms - which stain is suitable?

Version: 1 Date: 26 November 2013

Reviewer: Thomas Thurnheer

Reviewer's report:

General comments:

The present debate deals with the “confusion over live/dead stainings for the detection of vital microorganisms in oral biofilms”. Such a study has been due a long time ago regarding the multitudinous incorrect applications of the debated methods.

The paper is well argued and very well referenced. It is nicely written and interpretations are straightforward.

There are no further comments or flaws on my side.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest 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