Reviewer's report

Title: Randomized Pilot Trial of a Synbiotic Dietary Supplement in Chronic HIV-1 Infection

Version: 2 Date: 29 March 2012

Reviewer: Ruben Hummelen

Reviewer's report:

Schunter et al. are presenting results from a 4 week parallel RCT with 27 HIV positive women completing the study. Their question posed is well defined and has been appropriately answered. The field has been waiting for these answers for a number of years, and this report will significantly impact the development of future studies. Their analyses has been well designed and described, and the conclusions drawn from them are sound and well nuanced. Furthermore, the manuscript is well written and the abstract and the title appropriately reflect the work which was done. I recommend this manuscript for publication without further revisions.

Level of interest: An exceptional article

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I testify that I do not have competing interests in reviewing this paper.