Reviewer's report

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

Version: 2 Date: 27 April 2012

Reviewer: Paul Kelly

Reviewer's report:

Major essential revisions
None

Minor essential revisions
1 Please clarify in a footnote to Table 2 that the P value refers to the difference in change of the marker between the two groups.
2 In table 1 the viral load might be better expressed as geometric mean
3 The findings might have been different if patients with more advanced HIV had been included, as the enteropathy would be expected to have been worse. Please discuss.
4 There is the problem of multiple testing. P=0.044 would not be significant if a Bonferroni or other correction were applied. The Bonferroni correction is probably too conservative, but this point should be discussed and the importance of borderline P values in table 2 should not be over-stated.

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.