Reviewer's report

Title: Metabolic Markers and Microecological Characteristics of Tongue Coating in Patients with Chronic Gastritis

Version: 4 Date: 16 June 2013

Reviewer: Shao Li

Reviewer's report:

The revision is improved and most of my questions have been answered.

My concerns on the revision are as below:

1. As listed as [6] (Jiang et al, Scientific Reports 2012) in the revision, 16S rRNA methods had been used to determine the tongue coating's microbiome in gastritis patients probably at the first time, authors should clearly addressed this point and compared their results with [6].

2. The language throughout the text should be smoothed and improved.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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