Reviewer’s report

Title: Supplemental treatment of rheumatoid arthritis with natural milk antibodies against enteromicrobes and their toxins: results of an open-labeled pilot

Version: 1 Date: 12 August 2010

Reviewer: Susanna Rokka

Reviewer’s report:

The subject of this manuscript is current and extremely interesting as the importance of microbial flora on human health has been underestimated. The reports on the role of gut microbes in diseases and the ways to control them are thus most welcome.

This study is well designed and carried out. There are, however, some points to define in this paper.

Minor Essential Revisions
1. Check the symbols in figures/figure legends

Discretionary Revisions
2. Are the other whey proteins present in concentrate? How can you know that it is the antibodies that are behind the effect? What about lactoferrin, growth factors, enzymes, complement or peptides?
3. Please, clarify why milk antibodies raise the levels of serum antibodies and what is their effect on immune response.
4. The microbial flora varies significantly in different parts of GI tract. The fecal bacteria don’t tell very much about the situation in small intestine.
5. What is the connection of probiotics (page 14) to milk antibodies?
6. There are a number of studies that show that bovine IgG1 is quite resistant to pepsin cleavage. Refer for instance Petschow 1994, Roos 1995, Warny 1999.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests