Reviewer's report

Title: Associations between dietary habits and body mass index with gut microbiota composition and fecal water genotoxicity: an observational study in African American and Caucasian American volunteers

Version: 1 Date: 22 July 2009

Reviewer: ADELE COSTABILE

Reviewer's report:

This manuscript reports the differences in dietary habits focusing on cyto-genotoxicity of fecal water and gut microbiota. The study was well designed and performed. The presentation of the study protocol and the results were clear. The points raised in the discussion were relevant.

Some comments are raised for consideration and revision in order to clarify some relevant issues.

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:

There are some suggestions/comments about this manuscript:
1) Description of study design was entirely unclear. The study set should be more carefully described to make the reader understand. This should be clarified by a new figure on the study set up and sampling times.
2) The authors should be clarifying the FISH's data as Log10 Cell/g of stool instead of Bacteria/g of stool.