Reviewer’s report

Title: Global research trends in microbiome-gut-brain axis during 2009-2018: a bibliometric and visualized study

Version: 0 Date: 21 Jun 2019

Reviewer: Sofia Cussotto

Reviewer's report:

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Here the authors analyse the trends on microbiome research over the last 10 years. The review is well written, and the authors address an aspect of particular relevance, as the microbiome-brain research is currently facing a period of "hype". I have no major concerns but I suggest some minor comments that the authors may consider in order to improve the manuscript.

Page 3, line 3: please cite direct evidence of the statement instead of ref 1-5

Page 4, lines 5 and 10: Please cite primary research papers instead of reviews (ref 30 and 23)

Page 4, line 10: when discussing bifidobacteria increasing resilience in humans, there are also other papers that show the difficulties of translating preclinical findings into humans (e.g. doi: 10.1016/j.bbi.2016.11.018). I think it would be important to stress this point and cite some examples of human research where probiotics failed to improve stress.

Page 5, line 7: what does "has the largest one" mean? Is it referred to the quality standard? Not clear. Please rephrase

Page 10, line 2: capital "A"

Table 3: the separation across lines is not clear, I found it difficult to understand which author was linked to which paper. If possible, make it more clear

Figure 3: why Ireland, UK and Spain are listed in table 1 but are not found on this map? Spain could be missing because of the low number of publications, but Ireland and UK are amongst the most productive countries according to table 1

Legend of Figure 3 and 4: There is no indication of colour-codes. I suppose they are coloured according to the 4 sub-topics? It would be better to specify this in the figure legends.
Figure 3: is there a specific reason why yellow and blue are not present in figure 3? If yes, please explain in figure legend

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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