Author’s response to reviews

Title: Genetic polymorphism of scrA gene of Streptococcus mutans isolates is not associated with biofilm formation in severe early childhood caries

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Author’s response to reviews:
1. It has come to our attention that throughout the manuscript there is significant text overlap with other publications. While we understand that you may wish to express some of the same ideas contained in these publications, please be aware that we cannot condone the use of text from previously published work. We would therefore be grateful if you could provide a justification for the overlap in text between your manuscript and other sources. Please be informed that we cannot proceed with handling your manuscript before this issue is resolved, and the sections of text in question have been reformulated. The report has been attached to further help your revisions.

Please note that the software used to detect overlaps is imperfect and highlights two or more consecutive matching words, therefore, please just focus on those whole sentences/paragraphs highlighted. If this study uses methodology from a previously published work, please provide a summarizing statement in the methodology together with a citation to the original paper.

Great suggestion. We amended all the text overlap.

2. Please provide the full names for each author on the title page in the format: First name, Surname.
We agree. We provide the full names on the title page.

3. In the Methods section please clearly state the source of the S. mutans UA159 reference strain and BHI broth. If these were obtained commercially please state the company name and any catalogue numbers, if appropriate.
   We agree. We state the source of reference strain and BHI broth.

4. In the Ethics approval and consent to participate section of the Declarations please confirm whether informed consent, written or verbal, was obtained from the parents/legal guardians of all participants. If verbal, please state the reason and whether the ethics committee approved this procedure. If the need for consent was waived by an IRB or is deemed unnecessary according to national regulations, please clearly state this, including the name of the IRB or a reference to the relevant legislation.
   We agree. We amended it.

5. In the Consent for publication section of the declarations we note that you have stated “see attachment” but have not included an attachment please provide an explanation for this.

   Consent for publication refers to consent for the publication of identifying images or other personal or clinical details of participants that compromise anonymity. This section must be included even if it is not applicable to your manuscript. If consent to publish is not applicable to your manuscript please write ‘Not Applicable’ in this section.
   We agree. We amended it.

6. We note that there are no references to supplementary figures 2 and 3 in the manuscript text.
   Please amend this.
   We agree. We amended it.

7. Please submit your revised manuscript as a clean copy without any tracked changes, coloured or highlighted text, as these are no longer required at this stage of the editorial process.
   We agree. We amended it.