Author’s response to reviews

Title: First characterization of methanogens in oral cavity in Malian patients with oral cavity pathologies.

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Version: 3 Date: 10 Oct 2019

Author’s response to reviews:
OHEA-D-19-00416R2

Dear Editor,

Following your acceptation letter, please find enclosed the definitive version of our manuscript "First characterization of methanogens in oral cavity in Malian patients with oral cavity pathologies" (OHEA-D-19-00416R2) taking into consideration your editorial comments.

1. Please remove the header ('Third revised version') from the top of your manuscript pages.
Authors’ response: Done (The entire MS).
2. Please rename your 'Ethical approval' section to 'Ethics approval and consent to participate'.

Authors’ response: Done (Page 11).

3. Please confirm whether informed consent, written or verbal, was obtained from all participants and clearly state this in your Ethics approval and consent to participate section. Please also include information regarding parental consent in this section, including that parental consent was written.

Authors’ response: Done (Pages 4, lines 98-100; page 11, line 260).

4. Please make sure the abstract contains only the following headings: Background, Methods, Results, Conclusions.

Authors’ response: Corrected accordingly (Page 2).

5. Please separate your Results and Discussion section into two distinct, separate sections 'Results' and 'Discussion'. Please see our submission guidelines for what each section should include: https://bmcoralhealth.biomedcentral.com/submission-guidelines/preparing-your-manuscript/research-article

Authors’ response: Done (Pages 7-9).

6. Consent for publication refers to consent for the publication of identifying images or other personal or clinical details of participants that compromise anonymity. If your manuscript uses identifying images or other personal/clinical details, please include a statement of consent to publish from the patient, or in the case of minors, the patients’ guardians. If this is not applicable to your manuscript please state “Not Applicable” in this section.

Authors’ response: Corrected accordingly (Page 11, line 265).

7. Please remove the ages and gender from table 1 to help maintain participant confidentiality. Please use age ranges but not gender in their place. Please check that the identifiers do not link to patients.
Authors’ response: Corrected accordingly (Table 1, Page 16).

8. If abbreviations are used in the text they should be defined in the text at first use, and a list of abbreviations should be provided in the Declarations.

Authors’ response: Done (Page 2, line 39; line 41; Page 3, line 68; Page 5, line 122; Page 7, line 151).

9. Please rename your 'Conflict of Interests' section to 'Competing interests'.

Authors’ response: Done (Page 11, line 257).

10. Please remove the funding information from your Acknowledges and instead include it in the Funding section. The Acknowledgements section in your Declarations is where you acknowledge anyone who contributed towards the article who does not meet the criteria for authorship including anyone who provided professional writing services or materials. Authors should obtain permission to acknowledge from all those mentioned in the Acknowledgements section.

If there are no acknowledgements, please state “Not applicable”.

Authors’ response: Corrected (Page 11, line 241).

11. Please include a statement in your Funding section describing the role of the funding body in the design of the study, the collection, analysis, and interpretation of data and in writing the manuscript.

Authors’ response: Done (Page 11, lines 243-250).

12. At this stage, please upload your manuscript as a single, clean version that does not contain any tracked changes, comments, highlights, strikethroughs or text in different colours. All relevant tables/figures/additional files should also be clean versions. Figures (and additional files) should remain uploaded as separate files.
Authors’ response: Done.

By resubmitting your manuscript you confirm that all author details on the revised version are correct, that all authors have agreed to authorship and order of authorship for this manuscript and that all authors have the appropriate permissions and rights to the reported data.

Authors’ response: On behalf of all co-authors, I confirm that all the co-authors agreed on this ultimate version. Please note that one of the co-authors unexpectedly died in-between this work (Prof. Ogobara Doumbo, listed in memoriam).

Please be aware that we may investigate, or ask your institute to investigate, any unauthorised attempts to change authorship or discrepancies in authorship between the submitted and revised versions of your manuscript.

Authors’ response: There is no change in the authorship between the first and this ultimate revised version.