**PART 1:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Journal Name:</th>
<th>British Journal of Medicine and Medical Research</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Manuscript Number:</td>
<td>MS: 2012/BJMMR/2251</td>
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<tr>
<td>Title of the Manuscript:</td>
<td>Prevalence of Helicobacter pylori detected by PCR in saliva of male smokers and non smokers with chronic periodontitis</td>
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**PART 2:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FINAL EVALUATOR’S comments on revised paper (if any)</th>
<th>Authors’ response to final evaluator’s comments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This revision is an improvement over the initial submission. Many of the concerns raised by the first review have been satisfactorily addressed. There are, however, several residual problems that continue to detract from the overall effort. There are several CONTENT ISSUES that need to be resolved.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Lines 110-111 – It is unclear what is meant by, “…patients with apparently good periodontal health (GI &lt;1, PI &lt;1 and CAL &lt;2.2)…” The data in Table 1 for the “healthy” volunteers (i.e., Group III) shows that they had an average Gingival Index (GI) of 0.7; this means that many of the sites had clinically detectable gingival inflammation. In addition, the average clinical attachment loss (CAL) for the “healthy” volunteers was 1.9 mm; this means that there was almost an average of 2mm of periodontal damage in these subjects. Therefore, the “healthy” volunteers had periodontal damage + inflammation = periodontitis. Based on the data presented, individuals in Group III had some evidence of periodontitis. However, the periodontitis in Group III was much less severe than that found in individuals included in Groups I and II. In any revision of the existing manuscript, this problem must be fixed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Lines 184-190 (Table 1) – It is strongly recommended that average probing depths (PD) be included for all groups. It is quite possible that sites with deep probing depths (i.e., deep periodontal pockets) are good habitats for <em>H. pylori</em>. The authors should have access to probing-depth data on their study population because this information is usually needed to calculate the CAL values.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Lines 255-260 – In this run-on sentence the authors suggest smoking might promote colonization by <em>H. pylori</em> by interfering with the “immune system.” There are good data showing that smoking interferes with neutrophil function and smokers have more severe periodontitis and the deep periodontal pockets that accompany the disease. It is just as likely that deep periodontal pockets (i.e., probing depths) in smokers are a suitable intraoral habitat for <em>H. pylori</em>. In the current paper, a statistically significant different was not found in the carriage rate between smokers with chronic periodontitis (Group I) and nonsmokers with chronic periodontitis (Group II). Inclusion of the probing depth data might help explain the differences in <em>H. pylori</em> carriage between Groups I, II, and III.</td>
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</table>
**RESIDUAL EDITORIAL & MANUSCRIPT-PREPARATION PROBLEMS:**
A large number of editorial and manuscript-preparation issues persist throughout the paper. Some of the editorial issues are trivial, whereas others are of more concern. Some of these issues are listed below:

1. Line 27 (Abstract) – Here and throughout the manuscript change *H pylori* to *H. pylori*. There should be a period after the *H*.

2. Line 28 (Abstract) – Here and throughout the paper change “non smokers” to “nonsmokers” (one word).

3. Line 30 (Abstract) – Here and throughout the paper remove the hyphen from “unstimulated”

4. Line 43 – P values should be written as 0.001, not .001. A zero should be inserted before the P value.

5. Line 60 – Italicize *H. pylori*

6. Line 62 – Change (Francois, 2011) to (Francois et al., 2011). In the list of references this paper appears as “Francois, F. Roper, J.” However, this paper has 9 authors, not 2 as shown.

7. Line 63 – Correct the spelling of Ferguson and change the citation to (Ferguson et al., 1993)

8. Line 64 – It is suggested that “infection rates” be changed to “carriage rates” because the phrase deals with healthy adults. Use of the word “infection” implies that there is a disease.

9. Lines 64-65 – It is suggested that the following phrase be recast, “…whereas patients with gastritis and duodenal ulceration have infection rates of 80-100%.” One possible recast version might be, “…whereas 80-100% of patients with gastritis and duodenal ulceration harbor the microorganism.”

10. Line 73 – Delete “real”

11. Line 77 – Remove the hyphen from “reinfection”

12. Line 80 – Hyphenate “cost-effective”

13. Line 81 – Hyphenate “Saliva-based”

14. Line 104 – Change “anti inflammatory” to “anti-inflammatory”
15. Lines 105-107 – Recast the awkward sentence that begins with “Subjects who had…”

16. Line 119 – Correct the spelling of “cementoenamel”

17. Line 197 – Correct the spelling of “asthma”

18. Lines 210-215 – The subjects of the 3 sentences on these lines are not clearly connected. The sentences do not flow well. Recast.

Change “periodonto-pathogens” to “periodontopathogens” and change “F nucleatum” to “Fusobacterium nucleatum”

19. Line 216 – Hyphenate “ulcer-causing”

20. Line 228 – Here and throughout the paper change “pro inflammatory” to “proinflammatory”

21. Line 231 – Specify what “GIT” stands for. If it simply stands for “gastrointestinal tissue” insert the words and delete the abbreviation.

22. Lines 232 & 233 – Insert “the” between “in” and “oral cavity”

23. Line 238 – What is “Iac”? 

24. Lines 238-239 – Recast the awkward phrase, “Also habits like smoking, pan (betel leaves) with tobacco chewing…”

25. Lines 243-244 – It is suggested that “Tobacco smoking is the main risk factor…” be changed to “Tobacco smoking is an important risk factor…”

26. Line 246 – Change “sub-gingival” to “subgingival”

27. Line 252 – Correct the spelling of “collagenase”

28. Line 253 – Here and throughout the paper correct the spelling of “crevicular”

29. Line 253 – Replace “Georgia and Margaret” with “Johnson and Hill”. Georgia and Margaret are the first names of the authors, Georgia Johnson and Margaret Hill.

30. Lines 255-260 – Please recast the run-on sentence that begins with, “Smokers appear…”

31. Lines 261 & 262 – Here and throughout the paper correct the spelling of “metaplasia”
32. Lines 265-268 – Please recast the awkward sentence that begins with, “And when their…”

33. Line 271 – Change “co occurrence” to “co-occurrence”

34. Line 273 – Change “perio-pathogens” to “periodontopathogens”

35. Lines 273-274 – Change “…co aggregation of H pylori…” to “…co-aggregation with H. pylori…”

36. Line 275 – Change “specimen” to “specimens”

37. Lines 277-278 – Recast the awkward phrase, “…as well as nonspecifically amplifies human DNA.”

38. The REFERENCES continue to have numerous format and content problems. There are multiple errors. Please check the references for accuracy (i.e., spelling of authors names, inclusion of the appropriate number of authors, spelling of words in the titles).

Reviewer Details:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Gary C. Armitage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Department, University &amp; Country</td>
<td>Orofacial Sciences, Division of Periodontology, UCSF</td>
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