Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed a modified version of my Microreview “Artificial Sweeteners: Friend or Foe to Your Microbiome”. To address the concerns and comments raised by the 3 reviewers, I made the following changes to improve and clarify the manuscript. It is my hope that these changes make the manuscript acceptable for publication in Microreviews in Cell and Molecular Biology.

Sincerely,

Amanda Brown

Reviewer 1:

1. Briefly state if you found the comments of Reviewer 1 helpful or not.

I appreciated the positive comments about my manuscript form the first reviewer but the criticism was very vague and I did not get a lot of good suggestions, the answers were more broad and not specific (i.e. they recommended I use or attention getters and stated that my script needed clarity at some points but did not specify). I would’ve like to have specific examples to where I could have improved.

2. What changes did you make to your manuscript as a result of the comments of Reviewer 1?

I did not make any changes from the suggestions of reviewer 1 because there was not any specification to where clarity was needed or what kind of attention getters I needed.

Reviewer 2:

1. Briefly state if you found the comments of Reviewer 2 helpful or not.

I disagree with reviewer 2 stating that I did not cite my sources. I have provided sources and used footnotes to cite all references within my manuscript. I can assure that all information stated is cited and factually correct. The reviewer pointed out that some of my transition sentences (to other topics and paragraphs were sub par) needed to be reworded which was helpful.

2. What changes did you make to your manuscript as a result of the comments of Reviewer 2?

I think there was a mess up in my manuscript’s formatting to where my cited sources were very far down onto a fourth page so the reviewer could not see them immediately, and I have fixed this. I also work on my sentence transitions with my writing fellow and have fixed this.

Reviewer 3:

1. Briefly state if you found the comments of Reviewer 3 helpful or not.

Reviewer 3 pointed out that I needed to include extra facts about my diets I presented as a healthier choice of eating which was helpful. I also found the point about specifying if my stated bacteria was “good or bad” helped a lot.

2. What changes did you make to your manuscript as a result of the comments of Reviewer 3?

I went back and added more information about the diets I mentioned. I also rearranged the wording in paragraph 2 to insinuate that the two bacteria I noted were “good”.

Most of my changes mainly came from my writing fellow who was very informative and helpful. I fixed s few minor spelling errors and reworded transition sentences to create a better flow for my manuscript.