



SDI Review Form 1.6

Journal Name:	<u>British Journal of Applied Science & Technology</u>
Manuscript Number:	2014_BJAST_9315
Title of the Manuscript:	Do You Know Your Sh*t? Students' Awareness, Attitude, and Perception about Current and Relevant Events in Microbiology
Type of the Article	

General guideline for Peer Review process:

This journal's peer review policy states that **NO** manuscript should be rejected only on the basis of '**lack of Novelty**', provided the manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound.

To know the complete guideline for Peer Review process, reviewers are requested to visit this link:

(<http://www.sciencedomain.org/page.php?id=sdi-general-editorial-policy#Peer-Review-Guideline>)



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PART 1: Review Comments

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
<u>Compulsory</u> REVISION comments	General Comments: - FMT is an interesting and relevant topic and the paper is well written. Even though the 228 survey is from the same college and from a specific demographic, I would imagine from my own experience, that the results of the survey would be similar in other institutions. - The survey shows that those students who have taken microbiology previously were fairly knowledgeable on the subject of microorganisms but not on the topic of the new treatment FMT. So the teaching methods used by the author(s) at that college was getting the basic knowledge across and getting students motivated to learn. - Not only is it a good topic to present the issues of destruction of normal flora by antibiotic, the value of the symbiotic	Thank you for the positive comments.



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	relationship between microorganism and humans, the importance of the balance of the micro biome, and the new approaches for medical issues, but it also exposes the student to ethical and legal questions that surround new treatments such as FMT. • The paragraph associated with each bar graph is accurately organized. Specific Comments: Technically, the survey questions were well designed and each group well represented. The study clearly shows that the students who have previously taken microbiology courses had better understanding of bacteria in general, bacteria in human body, use of antibiotics and medical treatments and procedure. The paper clearly makes a case for a SENCER microbiology course. Specific points: • Line 24: It should read "Professor". "P" is missing. • Line 26: It should include the full name for SENCER (Science Education for New Civic	Line 24 has been modified as instructed
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	Engagements and Responsibilities) as this is the first time this acronym was mentioned in the paper. - Line 172-173: I have some reservations about the claim "<u>Our data supports this statement</u>". Roughly 80% of the students in each group showed interest in taking a microbiology class after completing the survey". I suggest to say "<u>Our data support the claim that integrating the current and relevant events in Microbiology pique the interest among students in microbiology and science in general</u>". Roughly 80% of the students in each group showed interest in taking a microbiology class after completing the survey." - Line 52: I would add after "... <i>Clostridium difficile</i>; a bacterium known for causing severe and sometimes fatal diarrhea. - Line 56: I would add one more reference: Brauer (2014) Brauer, Scott (2014). Student-led project banks on promise of fecal transplants. <i>The Chronicle of Higher Education</i>, February 3 , 2014. http://chronicle.com/article/Student-Led-Project-Banks-on/144353	The full name for SENCER has been added. "Our data supports this statement" has been deleted and "Our data support the claim that integrating the current and relevant events in Microbiology pique the interest among students in microbiology and science in general" has been replaced. In line 52, this statement "a bacterium known for causing severe and sometimes fatal diarrhea" has been added. This reference has been added.
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	- Line 57: I would add: To understand and appreciate FMT and the science of the human micro biome, you need to understand how <i>C. diff</i> bacterium causes the disease. “Roughly 3 percent of the population (and perhaps as much as 15 percent of the elderly population) carries the <i>C. diff.</i> bacterium. The organism usually lives benignly in the gut; it makes trouble only after the carrier undergoes chemotherapy, antibiotic therapy, or some other disruption to the gut’s normal ecology. When that happens, <i>C. diff.</i> can run wild, causing long days of watery, green-tinged diarrhea. (Roughly 14,000 Americans, most of them elderly, are estimated to die from the illness each year.). Fecal transplantation resolves <i>C. diff.</i> illness by restoring a healthier ecosystem to the patient’s gut; undoing whatever insults was done by chemotherapy or antibiotics.” (Brauer, 2014, ¶. 12 & 13) - Line 182: I would add: Today, however public awareness and support are needed since only a “few	This statement has been added.
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	laboratories are equipped to screen would-be donors' stool for the vast array of viruses, parasites, and other conditions that might make their feces too dangerous to transplant, and most hospitals simply don't have protocols in place for stool transplants." (Brauer, 2014, ¶. 6)	This statement has been added.
<u>Minor</u> REVISION comments		
<u>Optional/General</u> comments		