June 23, 2021

**DEPARTMENT OF MICROBIOLOGY AND IMMUNOLOGY**

1520A MEDICAL SCIENCE RESEARCH BUILDING I

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Dear Dr. McMahon,

I am happy to resubmit my manuscript, **Amplicon sequence variants artificially split bacterial genomes into separate clusters,** for your reconsideration at *mSphere*. I am grateful to you and the reviewers who were very encouraging about the content of the manuscript. I apologize for taking so long to resubmit. Too many things got in the way over the past few months.

The manuscript was previously submitted to bioRxiv as a preprint.

Sincerely,

A picture containing text, weapon, gun, black

Description automatically generated

Patrick D. Schloss, PhD

Professor