October 4, 2023

**DEPARTMENT OF MICROBIOLOGY AND IMMUNOLOGY**

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Dear Dr. Imperiale,

I am happy to rersubmit my manuscript, **Waste not, want not: Revisiting the analysis that called into question the practice of rarefaction**, for your reconsideration at *mSphere*. This manuscript was previously posted to bioRxiv as a preprint (DOI: 10.1101/2023.06.23.546312). I appreciate the enthusiasm that the two reviewers had for the work. Their comments have helped to tighten the message of the paper, which will increase the impact of the paper. Hopefully, this manuscript is now ready to be accepted for publication!

Sincerely,

A black and white text

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Patrick D. Schloss, PhD

Professor