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Dear Editor,

We are submitting the manuscript "*Ustilago maydis* Metabolic Characterization and Growth Quantification with a Genome-Scale Metabolic Model" for publication in MDPI JoF, Special Issue Smut Fungi 2.0. We present the first manually curated genome scale metabolic model for *Ustilago maydis* to increase understanding of the metabolism. The model is carefully constructed based on genetic, phenotypic and quantitative growth data.

The results are relevant for the community of Ustilaginaceae and yeast in general because:

- the model can be used for biotechnological metabolic optimization,
- the glucose growth quantification is relevant for virulence,
- we provide an overview of strain-level metabolic differences,

The model was quality tested with the accepted community tool Memote with a score of 57%. We believe the genome scale metabolic model of *U. maydis* will find useful application in fundamental and applied research on smut fungi and we hope that researchers can soon get the opportunity to apply and expand the model. The manuscript was uploaded to bioRxiv (doi: 10.1101/2022.03.03.482780). We confirm that neither the manuscript nor any parts of its content are currently under consideration or published in another journal. All authors have approved the manuscript and agree with its submission to JoF.

Yours sincerely,

Ulf Liebal
On behalf of all authors.