

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Enterohaemorrhagic *Escherichia coli* O157: a current threat requiring advanced approaches – author reply

I thank Ghenghesh and colleagues for their interest and comments on the paper ‘Enterohaemorrhagic *Escherichia coli* O157: a survey of dairy cattle in Tripoli, Libya’ (1). The Libyan data presented by Ghenghesh et al. in the 1990s were based on the analysis of stool specimens from pediatric patients aged between only a few days to 3 years, admitted to one hospital and involving different enteric organisms (2, 3). This study design limits the ability to make broad conclusions on the prevalence of *E. coli* O157 throughout all of Libya. A recent limited study detected *E. coli* O157 in 0.7% of children presented with diarrheal illness to a local hospital in Libya (4). Thus, well-designed epidemiological studies are needed to estimate the burden of *E. coli* O157 in Libya.

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The author declare no relationship (commercial or otherwise) that may constitute a dual or conflicting interest.

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This paper is a brief additional response to the Letter-to-the-Editor by Khalifa Sifaw Ghenghesh and Khaled Tawil.