**Point by point reply to the editor**

1. The editor has formatted the manuscript to match the journal's style. Please retain the same.

*Done.*

2. Please address all the specific comments marked in the manuscript.

*Done. In order to better clarify the issues raised by the editor we added two references (number 8, 9). 3 novel figures have been added (Figs 3,4,5), 4 tables (Tables 1-4), a panel has been added to figure 1 concerning qPCR results (Fig1B), a comparison with manual and automated method has been added in figure 6 and was already present in ex Figure 5 (now Figure 8).*

*We expanded the protocol when needed, we claryfied the passages, added pictures to support the text description or referred in the text to the figure as suggested by the Editor.*

*In a couple of comments the Editor questioned the appropraiteness of the DSS-chronic administration to induce intestinal inflammation. This setting is widely used in the gastroenterological field to study pathological features linked to intestinal inflammation, resembling human IBD. Being IBD a chronic disease, some clinical manifestations (i.e, fibrosis) are present only upon repetitive administration of DSS, thus causing chronic inflammation.*

*Moreover, we do agree that murine experimental settings are never completely adherent to human pathologies. In this context, it is widely accepted to define them “models”, even if we are aware that an experimental setting can never perfectly model a human disease. To support this practical reson we added two references that address this issue (refs 8,9)*

3. Please revise the Introduction to include all of the following:  
a) A clear statement of the overall goal of this method

*Added in lines 76-77*

b) The rationale behind the development and/or use of this technique

*Present in lines 63-70 and added in lines 87-90*

c) The advantages over alternative techniques with applicable references to previous studies

*To our knowledge there are no alternative techniques beside the manual processing and embedding. Lines 79-81*

d) A description of the context of the technique in the wider body of literature

*Beside the everyday practical experience of the requirement of protocols to increase the quality of histopathological examination also for murine experiments, very few articles addressed this topic. These papers have been cited as ref 1-3*

e) Information to help readers to determine whether the method is appropriate for their application

*Added in lines 89-7*

4. For the protocol section, please include every single detail of how the experiment is being performed. Please use imperative tense throughout as if directing someone how to perform the experiment. Please use complete sentences.

*We thoroughly corrected all the protocols.*

5. If there are any graphical user interface, button clicks, knob turns etc for the robotic system described here. We need action steps.

*We corrected the protocols. Whenever it was not possible to perform actions, being some of the actions performed by an automated instrument, we added specific Tables (Tables 1-3) and added the pictures in Figures 3-5*

6. After all the changes, please ensure that the highlight is is no more than 2.75 pages including headings and spacings.

*Done.*

7. Figures: Please upload all figures individually to your editorial manager account.

*It will be done.*

8. Please obtain explicit copyright permission to reuse any figures from a previous publication. Explicit permission can be expressed in the form of a letter from the editor or a link to the editorial policy that allows re-prints. Please upload this information as a .doc or .docx file to your Editorial Manager account. The Figure must be cited appropriately in the Figure Legend, i.e. “This figure has been modified from [citation].”

*We changed all the panels containing previsoulsy published figures or pictures and none of the figures in this current manuscript have been ever published before, therefore it is not needed anymore the copyright permission.*