


No conflict of interest exists for any author associated with this manuscript.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vega', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Kenneth J. Vega, M.D., FACP, AGAF**

Professor of Medicine

Director of Research

Division of Digestive Diseases and Nutrition

COL (ret), NMARNG

[kenneth-vega@ouhsc.edu](mailto:kenneth-vega@ouhsc.edu)