

### Conflict-of-interest Statement

MS: #18542. Revised

None of the Authors have any conflict of interest. This work was partly supported with funds from NYMC Research Endowment Fund under the College's intramural support program (RM), the National Institutes of Health (JEL, R01 HL111259) and K23 HL098743 (EDA). We thank the patients for their valuable contributions, and acknowledge Lisa Wheeler (Vanderbilt University, Nashville) who coordinated the study enrollment and sample acquisition for human studies.

A part of the study was presented as an abstract at a national/international meeting.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rajamma Mathew', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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