


This study was submitted and reviewed by Dr. Harold F. Bennett, MD, PHD from the DEAN IRB and determined to be exempt from further IRB review since the research involves the study of existing data and identifiers to subjects will be coded. See the attached statement from the IRB.

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James M. Levin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a stylized "L".

James M Levin, MD
Chief of the Department of Infectious Disease
Dean Clinic
1313 Fish Hatchery Rd.
Madison, WI 53715