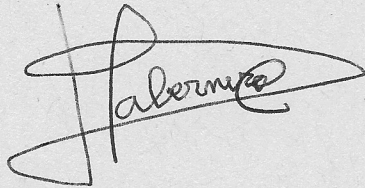


As corresponding author, I confirm that in the study object of the manuscript with title "Characterization of Hepatitis B Virus X Gene Quasispecies Complexity in Monoinfection and Hepatitis Delta Virus Superinfection" (submission number 45308, World Journal Gastroenterology), **no animal models were used.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tabernero', enclosed within a large, stylized, loopy oval shape.

Sincerely,

Dr. David Tabernero