

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The statistical review of the study entitled "Conservation and variability of Hepatitis B Core gene in chronic patients at different clinical stages: A deep sequencing approach" was performed by Dr. Josep Gregori and Mercedes Guerrero-Murillo. Dr. Josep Gregori is a bioinformatician and biomedical statistician, member of the liver disease laboratory-viral hepatitis (Vall d'Hebron Institut Recerca-Hospital Universitari Vall d'Hebron) and CIBERehd, and an employee of Roche Diagnostics SL. His contact information is Liver Unit, Liver Disease Laboratory-Viral Hepatitis, Lab 007, Vall d'Hebron Institut Recerca, 08035 Barcelona, Spain, e-mail josep.gregori@vhir.org. Mercedes Guerrero-Murillo is a bioinformatician and biomedical statistician, member of the liver disease laboratory-viral hepatitis (Vall d'Hebron Institut Recerca-Hospital Universitari Vall d'Hebron) and Department of Microbiology of Hospital Universitari Vall d'Hebron. Her contact information is Liver Unit, Liver Disease Laboratory-Viral Hepatitis, Lab 007, Vall d'Hebron Institut Recerca, 08035 Barcelona, Spain, e-mail mercedes.guerrero@vhir.org.

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As corresponding author, she confirms that Dr. Josep Gregori and Mercedes Guerrero-Murillo have conducted and reviewed the bioinformatics and statistics analysis of this study, ensuring their adequation, correctness and proper explanation in the manuscript

Sincerely,

Dr. Josep Gregori

Mercedes Guerrero-Murillo

Dr. Maria Francesca Cortese

