Professor. Andrzej S Tarnawski Editors-in-Chief "World Journal of Gastroenterology"

Dear Prof. Andrzej S Tarnawski,

Because no animals were involved in this study, the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee chose to waive requirement.

Yours sincerely,

Atsushi Shiozaki, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor

Signature: Alfust, Shuzale.

Contact information:

Division of Digestive Surgery, Department of Surgery, Kyoto Prefectural University of Medicine,

465, Kajii-cho, Kamigyo-ku, Kyoto, Japan

Phone: +81-75-251-5527, Fax: +81-75-251-5522

E-Mail: shiozaki@koto.kpu-m.ac.jp