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**RE: Biostatistical Support for the *Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology* Manuscript**

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to endorse the biostatistical analyses carried on the paper titled '*The potential of damage associated molecular patterns (DAMPs) in synergising radiation and the immune response in oesophageal cancer*'.

I have reviewed the manuscript and concur with the analyses undertaken which implement parametric and nonparametric approaches throughout their *in vitro* and *ex vivo* analyses, respectively. It is evident that the authors have taken great care to choose the appropriate statistical test(s) throughout the study and have been transparent in these approaches.

Regarding my expertise on this specific topic, I completed a Postgraduate Diploma in Statistics (Level 9, equivalent of an MSc) during my PhD training. Through collaborative efforts, I regularly analyse and publish datasets for other research groups across TCD and various universities in Ireland. I am consulted frequently by TCD for biostatistical analysis. Moreover, I conceive and deliver various M.Sc. and B.Sc. biostatistical lectures and seminars and deliver a Key Skills module for PhD students, which encompasses day-long workshops on the underlying ideas and concepts that underpin a variety of biostatistical analyses.

The Department of Surgery in Trinity College Dublin are renowned in publishing studies akin to the current manuscript. This laboratory group are robust in their approach to biostatistical analyses, as evidenced by over a decade of publishing using analogous cell and patient models. I highly commend the statistical analyses carried on this manuscript and would support its publication in the *Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology* based. Please feel free to contact me if you and/or the reviewer in question would like to discuss my reasoning in more detail (via email, voice or video call).

Yours faithfully,

Dr. James J. Phelan