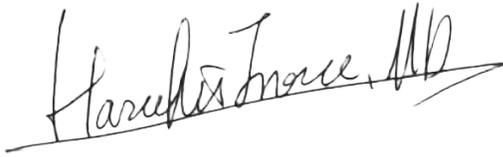


I, Haruhiro Inoue, M.D., Ph.D., certify the following statement with regard to the manuscript "Phalanusitthepha C *et al.*, Endoscopic features of early-stage signet-ring-cell carcinoma of the stomach."

Ethics approval: This study was conducted in accordance with the ethical standards of the Helsinki Declaration of 1964, as revised in 2013. Retrospective review of pathologic specimens is exempt from formal approval according to the policies and procedures of the Institutional Review Board (IRB) of Showa University Northern Yokohama Hospital, Yokohama, Japan.

Signed,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Haruhiro Inoue, MD". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

Haruhiro Inoue, M.D., Ph.D.