# Institutional Animal Care Use Committee statement

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**Authors List:** Yukihito Ishii, Yu Motohashi, Makoto Muramatsu, Yoshiaki Katsuda, Katsuhiro Miyajima, Tomohiko Sasase, Takahisa Yamada, Tohru Matsui, Shinichi Kume, Takeshi Ohta

**Correspondence:** Yukihito Ishii Ph.D., Japan Tobacco Inc., Central Pharmaceutical Research Institute, 1-1, Murasaki-cho, Takatsuki, Osaka 569-1125, Japan yukihito.ishii@jt.com

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All procedures involving animals were reviewed and approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee of Japan Tobacco Biological/Pharmacological Research Laboratories (IACUC protocol number: 00745).

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the World Journal of Gastroenterology.

Sincerely yours,

Yukihito Ishii

Yukihito Ishii Ph.D.,
Biological/Pharmacological ResearchLaboratories
Central Pharmaceutical Research Institute
Japan Tobacco Inc.
1-1, Murasaki-cho, Takatsuki,
Osaka, Japan 569-1125
Telephone: +81-72-681-9700
Fax: +81-72-681-9722
E-mail: yukihito.ishii@jt.com