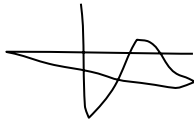


Conflict-of-interest statement

We have no conflict of interest to declare.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a horizontal line, positioned above the printed name.

Konstantinos TZIOMALOS, MD, PhD
First Propedeutic Department of Internal Medicine

Medical School, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, AHEPA Hospital

Thessaloniki, 1 Stilponos Kyriakidi street
54636-Greece

Fax: +30-2310994773

E-mail: ktziomalos@yahoo.com