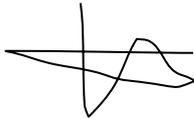


*Conflict-of-interest statement*

We have no conflict of interest to declare.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a vertical line on the left, a horizontal line across the middle, and a series of loops and curves on the right side.

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