

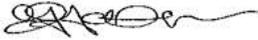
November 15, 2017

Dear editorial board of the World Journal of Gastroenterology

**Ethics Statement**

This study was approved by the Institutional Review Board (IRB) at Washington University Hospital. Adult patients are recruited in a consecutive fashion by the Washington University Digestive Diseases Research Tissue Procurement Facility and provide verbal and written consent for chart abstraction, blood, stool, tissue biopsies and/or surgical waste collection with analysis for research purposes and for their information to be stored in the hospital database. The IRB at Washington University approved this consent procedure.

Sincerely yours,



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