A Statement by Statistician Chen Zhifen

I am writing to certify that statistical methods used in the article entitled “Younger onset age and multiple primary upper gastrointestinal malignancies associated with familial rather than sporadic esophageal squamous cell carcinoma patients suggest an inherited predisposition” were chosen according to the standard principles of statistics. Specifically, differences in the contribution of clinicopathologic variables among groups were examined by Chi-square Test. Difference in onset age between familial and sporadic cases were tested using Student’s t-test. A two-sided *P* value of less than 0.05 was considered as statistically significant. All the calculations were performed using SPSS software version 13.0.

Chen Zhifeng

Professor of biostatistics

Cancer Institute

Hebei Medical University

15 March 2012