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Dear sir/madam,

This is to certify that, although born in Spain, I was resident in the UK for many years (1990-2004), where I received my academic formation: BSc(Hons) in *Cellular and Molecular Pathology* (University of Bristol, 1990-1993) / PhD in *Molecular Genetics* (University of Glasgow, 1993-1998). Following my academic studies, I worked as a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Glasgow (1998) and at UCL (London), from 1998 to 2004. From there, I moved to Slovenia, where I conducted all my research (and daily life) within an English-speaking community (2005-2009). I also hold a C2 Proficiency Qualification. Therefore, my competence in the English language allows me to write and publish my research articles without the need of outside editing services.

Yours sincerely,



Maria Beatriz Durán Alonso, PhD

