Dear Editor,

I hereby certify that Takeshi Okamoto, the first and corresponding author, is a native speaker of English.

I received 16 years of education (elementary school, middle school, high school, university) under the American education system and English is my first language.

I have thoroughly edited and reviewed the manuscript. It therefore has not been edited by a separate native speaker. I therefore have no "Non-Native Speakers of English Editing Certificate" to submit.

Best regards,

Takeshi Okamoto Department of Gastroenterology St. Luke's International Hospital