Institutional Review Board (IRB) and consent form statements

This study was approved by the institutional review boards (IRB) of the Medical College of Georgia (MCG), Augusta, GA, and Dwight David Eisenhower Army Medical Center, Fort Gordon, GA, USA. A signed consent was taken from each patient or his/her immediate family member before withdrawing blood. I performed this study in the laboratory of Dr. S. P. Mahadik at the MCG, GA. I contacted Dr. Mahadik through his email to get a copy of the above documents; however, they could not be retrieved due to long gap as all the records have been destroyed long back. In this regard, email responses of Dr. Mahadik are attached below.

From: Mahadik, Sahebarao SMAHADIK@augusta.edu Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Leptin-Fatty acid paper Date: 16 March 2022 at 8:05 PM To: mohd m khan mmkhan0@gmail.com

Hi Khan,

Nice to hear from you. About copy of the letter of IRB approval, it is not possible send to you. It is long time. All the records are destroyed by Research office 5 years after researchers have left.

I am retired over 7 years now.

You may have to try to assure the publication that all US Institutions have policy to do research on projects that are approved by IRB. This study was no exception.

Take care and Good luck,

Sahebarao P. Mahadik Emeritus Professor Augusta University. Augusta 30912.

From: mohd m khan <mmkhan0@gmail.com> Sent: Monday, March 14, 2022 9:03 PM To: Mahadik, Sahebarao <SMAHADIK@augusta.edu> Subject: [EXTERNAL] Leptin-Fatty acid paper

CAUTION: EXTERNAL SENDER

This email originated from an external source. Please exercise caution before opening attachments, clicking links, replying, or providing information to the sender. If you believe it to be fraudulent, contact the AU Cybersecurity Hotline at 72-CYBER (2-9237 / 706-722-9237) or 72CYBER@augusta.edu.

Dear Dr. Mahadik,

I hope all is well at your end. I just wanted to check with you one more time regarding the Institutional Review Board approval, if it is available. The above paper has been provisionally accepted, it requires IRB approval letter.

I hope I am not bothering you too much.

Sincerely,

Khan

From: Mahadik, Sahebarao SMAHADIK@augusta.edu Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Leptin-Fatty acid paper Date: 23 April 2022 at 1:19 AM

To: mohd m khan mmkhan0@gmail.com

Hi Khan,

This request is also unreasonable since every patient enrolled in the study mandatary signs sch document before he/she enters in the study and PI also signs it.

But all the paperwork is no longer maintained. After study is completed, Institution can keeps for 5 years and disposes.

Sorry for the convenience.

Sahebarao P. Mahadik Emeritus Professor Augusta University. Augusta 30912.

From: mohd m khan <mmkhan0@gmail.com> Sent: Friday, April 22, 2022 10:30 AM To: Mahadik, Sahebarao <SMAHADIK@augusta.edu> Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Leptin-Fatty acid paper

Dear Dr. Mahadik,

I hope all is well at your end. The journal editor has requested this document, please let me know if it is available.

Please upload the primary version (PDF) of the Informed Consent Form that has been signed by all subjects and investigators of the study

I apology for any inconvenience in this regard.

Sincerely

Mohammad Khan

On 16-Mar-2022, at 8:05 PM, Mahadik, Sahebarao <<u>SMAHADIK@augusta.edu</u>> wrote:

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SM