

**Biostatistician Report**

Please accept this letter as a request of waiver for a biostatistical report. Dr. Kaplan (corresponding and senior author) received his Masters' of Public Health (Specializing in Quantitative Methods) from the Harvard School of Public Health (Degree 2006). Dr. Kaplan has extensive expertise in epidemiology and biostatistics. Dr. Kaplan has published 80 peer-reviewed manuscripts in leading journals in the field of Gastroenterology. In the majority of these publications, Dr. Kaplan has served as the lead in data analysis. Mr. Hong Yang (Masters in Biostatistics) conducted the data analysis. Mr. Yang is employed and supervised by Dr. Kaplan. Dr. Kaplan supervised the data analysis, confirms the validity of the statistical approach and analysis, and takes full responsibility for the results. Additionally, the following co-investigators of the study reviewed and approved the data analysis: Drs. Hilsden (PhD Epidemiology), Myers (MSc Epidemiology), and Dixon (MSc Epidemiology). Thus, we request a waiver for a separate biostatistical review of our analysis.

Thanks

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