

## Cover Letter

### **The benefits of post-operative oral protein supplementation in gastrointestinal surgery patients: A systematic review of clinical trials.**

On behalf of the authors, I confirm that All authors have made substantial contributions to all of the following: (1) the conception and design of the study, or acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data, (2) drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content, (3) final approval of the version to be submitted.

All authors have seen and approved the manuscript and are fully conversant with its contents.

The work has not been published previously. No papers using the same dataset or relating to the same topic have been published or submitted by any of the authors for consideration elsewhere.

The authors confirm that there is no conflict of interest.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colum Dunne', with the date '24/1/16' written below it.

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