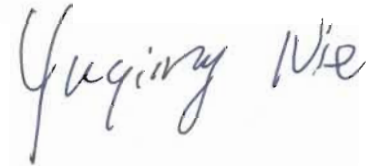


STATEMENT OF INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD

The study was reviewed and approved by the Guangzhou First People's Hospital Institutional Review Board

Yu-Qiang Nie, Correspondence author, Professor of Medicine, Chief,
Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Guangzhou First People's
Hospital, Guangzhou 510180, China.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Yuqing Nie". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first name "Yuqing" is written in a larger, more prominent script, and the last name "Nie" is written in a smaller, simpler script to the right.