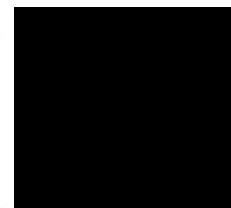


To Whom It May Concern

This is to certify that myself, Santosh Kumar having met the rigorous requirements and demonstrated expertise in the field of statistical analysis, has successfully conducted a high-quality analysis for the project entitled, “A randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, parallel-group study of the efficacy and safety of *L. plantarum* in diarrhea-predominant irritable bowel syndrome” and the associated manuscript.

This letter is to confirm that, I have adhered to the best practices, followed pre-approved Statistical Analysis Plan, implemented stringent quality control measures throughout the analysis process to ensure the accuracy and validity of the results and that in my opinion the statistical methods and techniques mentioned are appropriate for the research.



Thanks & regards,
Santosh Kumar,
Biostatistics Consultant

