Informed Consent Statement

Dear Editor,

herewith we guarantee that

‘All study participants, or their legal guardian, provided informed written consent prior to study enrollment.’

Written informed consent was obtained from all participants and the experiments were in accordance with the principles of the WMA Declaration of Helsinki and the Department of Health and Human Services Belmont Report. All studies were approved by the following local Ethics Committees: Heidelberg, Germany: Ethical Committee, Medical Faculty of the Heidelberg University Hospital (S067/2010); Cork, Ireland: Clinical Research Ethics Committee (APC024); Gothenburg, Sweden: Regional Ethical Review Board in Gothenburg (S489-02 and 731-09); Nottingham, UK: registered at clinical trial clinicaltrials.gov (identifier NCT00745004) and approved by Nottingham Research Ethics Committee 2 (REC reference number 08/H0408/134)21; and St-Louis, US: Washington University St. Louis, Human Research Protection Office (IRB ID #: 201103220).

Yours sincerely,

Beate Niesler