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Certificate of Ethical Approval by Institutional Ethical Review Board/Committee (IERB/C)

All submitted manuscripts are required to comply with the <u>Publication Ethics Policy</u>. According to Section 4 of the Publication Ethics Policy, the authors of studies involving testing on human/animal subjects are required to provide a certificate of approval of the Institutional Ethical Review Board/Committee (IERB/C). The board must have to certify that all human/animal subjects were handled according to the guidelines set by the relevant IERB/C or equivalent body as follows:

- The experiments were conducted in accordance with the ethical principles and guidelines set forth by the <u>Declaration of Helsinki</u>, the <u>International Council for Harmonization of Technical Requirements for Pharmaceuticals for Human Use (ICH)</u>, the <u>International Conference on Harmonization Good Clinical Practice (ICH-GCP)</u>, and any other relevant national and international regulations.
- 2. All study participants declare that
 - a. All experiments involving animals were carried out following the guidelines provided by the IERB/C or equivalent regulatory body.
 - b. Efforts were made to minimize any potential pain or discomfort to the animals during the research.
 - c. Utmost respect for the participants' rights and privacy was considered
 - d. Human subjects were provided written informed consent before their involvement in the study.
 - e. For animal models, their owner (s)/caretakers were informed about the potential benefits/risks of the study.
 - f. Where explicit consent was not feasible, appropriate ethical approvals were obtained from an immediate relative/person.

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