



Author's statements

EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 2020

Acknowledgments (*if applicable*)

This section should describe recognition of personal assistance: people who contributed to the work, but do not fit the criteria for authors should be listed along with their contributions. You must ensure that anyone named in the acknowledgments agrees to being so named.

Acknowledgements: The authors are grateful for the reviewer's valuable comments that improved the manuscript.

Funding information (*obligatory*)

This section should describe sources of funding that have supported the work. Authors should state how the research described in their article was funded, including grant numbers if applicable. If there is no funding involved, the following (or similar) statement should be included:

Funding information: Authors state no funding involved.

Author contribution (*obligatory*)

To recognize every author's contribution to a research paper, reduce authorship disputes and facilitate collaboration, we encourage authors to include a statement in the manuscript that shares and accurately describes the contribution of each author.

For multi-authored publications, authors are encouraged to add an "Author contribution" section, in which the contributions of all co-authors are briefly described, with the authors referred to using their initials. Example:

Author contribution: All authors have accepted responsibility for the entire content of this manuscript and approved its submission.

Author contribution: "IGH and JB designed the experiments and CC carried them out. HD developed the model code and performed the simulations. AA prepared the manuscript with contributions from all co-authors."

In addition, it is also required to state the approach the sequence of authors were determined in. Example:

Author contribution: "The authors applied the SDC approach for the sequence of authors."

In this case SDC means that the sequence of authors reflects the declining importance of their contribution. Please see <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pbio.0050018> for further details and categories.

Please also note that authorship should be limited to those who have made a significant contribution to the conception, design, execution, or interpretation of the reported study. All those who have made



significant contributions should be listed as co-authors. Where there are others who have participated in certain substantive aspects of the research project, they should be named in an Acknowledgement section.

Conflict of interest (*obligatory*)

To ensure fair and objective decision-making, authors must declare any associations that pose a conflict of interest (financial, personal or professional) in connection with evaluated manuscripts. Non-financial competing interests include a declaration of political, personal, religious, ideological, academic, and intellectual competing interests. Authors from pharmaceutical companies, or other commercial organizations that sponsor clinical trials, should declare these as competing interests on submission.

If there is a conflict of interest, the following (or similar) Author's Statement (including appropriate information) should be included before the References (or at the end of the Acknowledgments section):

Conflict of interest: Author N.N. is a member of Committee XXXX. Author N.N. owns shares of Company Y mentioned in the article.

If there are no conflicts of interest, the following Author's Statement should be included before the References (or at the end of the Acknowledgments section):

Conflict of interest: Authors state no conflict of interest.

Informed consent (*if applicable*)

The protection of privacy is a legal right that must not be breached without individual informed consent. In cases where the identification of personal information is necessary for scientific reasons, authors should obtain full documentation of informed consent, including written permission from the patient prior to inclusion in the study.

The following (or similar) statement should be included in the Methods section:

Informed consent: Informed consent has been obtained from all individuals included in this study.

Authorization for the use of human subjects (*if applicable*)

Manuscripts containing information related to human use should clearly state that the research has complied with all relevant national regulations and institutional policies and has been approved by the authors' institutional review board or equivalent committee. Copies of the guidelines and policy statements must be available for review by the Editor if necessary. The editors reserve the right to seek additional information or guidance from reviewers on any cases in which concerns arise.



All investigation with human subjects must have been conducted by following the tenets of the Helsinki Declaration. Authors must also identify the committee or review board approving the experiments, and provide a statement indicating approval of the research.

The following (or similar) statement should be included in the Methods section:

Ethical approval: The research related to human use has been complied with all the relevant national regulations, institutional policies and in accordance the tenets of the Helsinki Declaration, and has been approved by the authors' institutional review board or equivalent committee.

Authorization for the use of experimental animals (*if applicable*)

Manuscripts containing information related to animals' use should clearly state that the research has complied with all relevant national regulations and institutional policies and has been approved by the authors' institutional review board or equivalent committee. Copies of the guidelines and policy statements must be available for review by the Editor if necessary. The editors reserve the right to seek additional information or guidance from reviewers on any cases in which concerns arise. Research using animal subjects should be conducted according to the Principles of Laboratory Animal Care and similar documents.

For manuscripts reporting experiments on live vertebrates or higher invertebrates, authors must identify the committee approving the experiments, and must confirm that all experiments were performed in accordance with relevant regulations.

The following (or similar) statement should be included in the Methods section:

Ethical approval: The research related to animals' use has been complied with all the relevant national regulations and institutional policies for the care and use of animals.

If the manuscript does not contain any study that requires human or animal ethical approval, the following statement should be included in the Methods section:

Ethical approval: The conducted research is not related to either human or animals use.

For further reference please visit website of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE):

<https://publicationethics.org>

Data availability statements (*if applicable*)

In accordance with our data sharing policy, the final manuscript that reports results derived from research data must include a Data Availability Statement (DAS). The provision of a DAS will be verified as a condition of publication. The DAS should include information on where data supporting the results reported in the article can be found, including, where applicable, hyperlinks to publicly archived datasets analysed or generated during the study. Where research data are not publicly available, this must be stated in the manuscript along with any conditions for accessing the data.

Data Availability Statement should be included before the References (or at the end of the Acknowledgments section) after the Author's Statement.

Data availability statements can take one of the following forms (or a combination of more than one if required for multiple types of research data):

- The datasets generated during and/or analysed during the current study are available in the [NAME] repository, [PERSISTENT WEB LINK TO DATASETS]
- The datasets generated during and/or analysed during the current study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.
- Data sharing is not applicable to this article as no datasets were generated or analysed during the current study.
- All data generated or analysed during this study are included in this published article [and its supplementary information files].
- The data that support the findings of this study are available from [third party name] but restrictions apply to the availability of these data, which were used under license for the current study, and so are not publicly available. Data are however available from the authors upon reasonable request and with permission of [third party name].