

COVER LETTER

Dear Dr. Yuegang Zuo, Editor-in-Chief of
Journal of Endocrinology Research

Subject: **Manuscript submission to the Journal of Endocrinology Research**

The authors indicated below, hereby submit to the Journal of Endocrinology Research the following manuscript to publish as **Original Article**:

“Histopathological Characteristics of Folliculo-stellate Cells in Pituitary Glands of Wild Type, Obese and High-fat diet Induced Mice”

José Filipe Melo, Gonçalo Borrecho, Noélia Martinez-Sánchez, Francisco Tortosa

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iii. A brief description of the novelty and importance of the findings detailed in the paper:

Our study appears to be the first one trying to link basal metabolism alterations and the number of folliculo-stellate cells (FSC) in pituitary glands of three different groups of mice. This led us to find that mice under a high-fat diet tend to have significantly more FSC than wild type and genetically obese mice.

iv. Declaration:

The authors would like to undertake the responsibility that the above mentioned manuscript:

- Has not been published totally or partly, accepted for publication or under editorial review for publication elsewhere.
- The work is original and not copied from anywhere.
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- It was prepared in accordance with the author guidelines, and the authors accept that if the article does not respect strictly the same will be refunded the process of peer review without being started.
- Does not infringe copyrights of others and does not violate any right of privacy.

v. Conflict of Interest:

The authors do not have conflicts of interest to declare.

vi. Informed Consent:

N/A.

vii. Ethical Approval:

The work was approved by ethics committees of the institution in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki of the World Medical Association. All animal procedures were approved by the ethics committee of the *Instituto Gulbenkian de Ciência* and by the *Órgão Responsável pelo Bem-estar dos Animais* (ORBEA).

viii. Trial Registration:

N/A.

ix. Contributorship:

F.T and J.F.M. conceived of the presented idea. G.B and N.M.S. developed the theory, performed the computations and verified the analytical methods. F.T supervised the findings of this work. All authors discussed the results and contributed to the final manuscript.

Thanking you for considering our scientific work with a complete waiver (below),
Yours sincerely,

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Lisbon, Portugal

