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LEUVEN 2024-23-06

Dear Prof. Dr. Jian Li

Dear members of the Editorial Board

**LEUVEN PHARMACOMETRICS RESEARCH GROUP**

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BELGIUM

We are pleased to submit our manuscript titled "Model-informed identification of an optimised fluconazole dosing strategy for improved target attainment in critically ill patients" for consideration as a research paper in the International Journal of Antimicrobial Agents.

The lack of an optimized fluconazole dosing strategy for critically ill patients remains an unresolved issue, as recent studies have shown inconsistent findings. These studies were limited by being single-centre with small sample sizes. In our study, we addressed these limitations by assembling the largest fluconazole cohort to date in critically ill patients and employing state-of-the-art multiple imputation techniques to handle missing data. Consequently, we have proposed a dosing regimen that may achieve a >90% probability of target attainment in critically ill patients, potentially obviating the need for therapeutic drug monitoring.

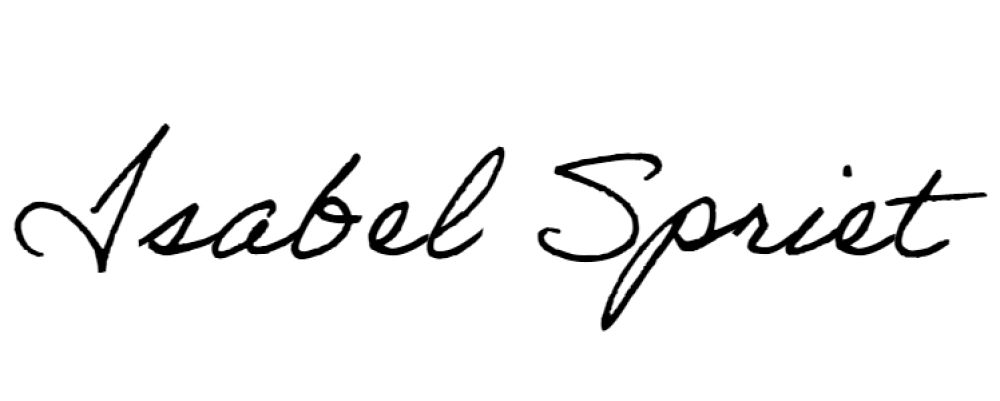
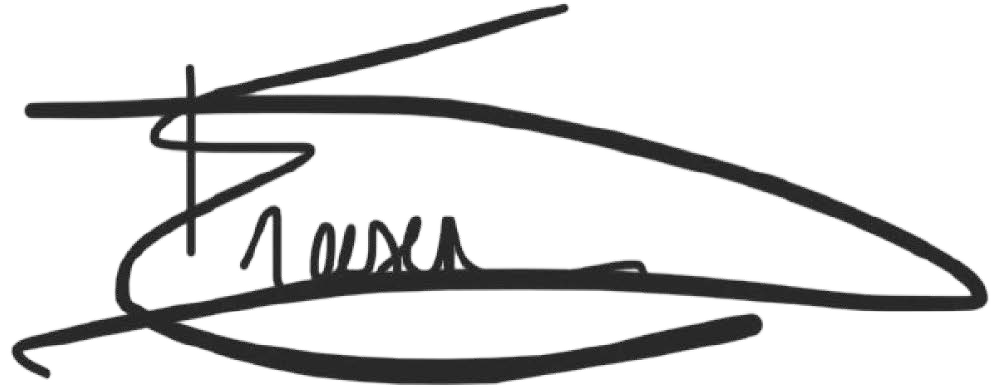
The International Journal of Antimicrobial Agents is an ideal venue for our manuscript due to its standing as a leading journal in the field of infectious disease treatment with antimicrobials. We believe our manuscript will greatly interest your readers, addressing a clinically relevant issue and providing valuable insights into the pharmacokinetics and dose optimization of fluconazole in critically ill patients. Our findings offer an optimized, easily implementable dosing solution that can significantly benefit clinical practice.

We confirm that this manuscript has not been previously published, is not under consideration for publication elsewhere, and that all authors have read and approved the final version of the manuscript.

Thank you for considering our manuscript for publication in the International Journal of Antimicrobial Agents. We look forward to your feedback on the review process.

Yours sincerely,

On behalf of all co-authors,



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