

Dear Editor,

This is to confirm that the article entitled "Effective and ethical communication of COVID-19 health policies and strategies require transparent open data sharing between scientists, governments and policy makers" submitted to the Indian Journal of Medical Ethics is original and has been co-authored by the undersigned. All authors have participated in the work sufficiently to meet the ICMJE guidelines for authorship. All have read and approved the manuscript. The submission is not under consideration for publication in any other journal.

Both authors are corresponding authors

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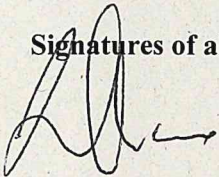
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'F. Chirico', written over a horizontal line.