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James Talmadge, Ph.D.

International Immunopharmacology

University of Nebraska Medical Center, Department of Pathology and Microbiology, Nebraska Medical Center, 42ns and Emile, NE 68198-3135, Omaha, Nebraska, United States of America

Omaha, Nebraska, 68198-3135

Dear James Talmadge, Ph.D.,

I am writing to submit our research manuscript, titled "**Reevaluating the Role of BCG Vaccine in COVID-19 Protection: A Comprehensive Meta-Analysis and Systematic Review**," for consideration for publication in **International Immunopharmacology**.

The Bacillus Calmette-Guerin (BCG) vaccine has been a topic of considerable interest in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our study aims to provide a rigorous evaluation of the BCG vaccine's potential role in preventing COVID-19 infections and reducing the severity of the disease. We believe that the research findings presented in this manuscript hold significant implications for the ongoing global efforts to combat the COVID-19 pandemic and potential future outbreaks.

This study involves a comprehensive meta-analysis, which includes an examination of various aspects related to the BCG vaccine and COVID-19, such as the vaccine's effectiveness in preventing infections, its impact on hospitalized patients, patients requiring ICU care, and the reduction of COVID-19-related mortality. Our analysis goes further by conducting subgroup meta-analyses based on age, patient characteristics, and vaccine types, providing a nuanced and in-depth understanding of the subject matter.

The study gathered data from a range of scientific publications, and we conducted a thorough analysis, employing both random-effects and fixed-effects models as appropriate for the different groups and subgroups. **Our findings reveal significant and previously unreported insights, particularly in relation to the BCG Moscow vaccine's impact on patients admitted to the hospital and its benefits in preventing ICU admission among adult patients**. These results are of vital importance for developing strategies in the prevention and treatment of infectious diseases.

In conclusion, our research has the potential to contribute significantly to the body of knowledge concerning the role of the BCG vaccine in the context of COVID-19. We hope that our findings, which highlight the vaccine's positive effects in specific populations, will be of great interest to the readers of **International Immunopharmacology**. We kindly request that you consider our manuscript for publication.

Should you require any further information or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at **+62 82189727511** or via email at **apriantokasiful@gmail.com**. We are grateful for your time and consideration and look forward to the possibility of contributing to **International Immunopharmacology**.

Thank you for your attention, and we hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

Kasiful Aprianto, SST

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