Author's covering letter for initial submission

Title: Sickle Cell Disease in Angola

Authors:

Version: 1 Date: 25 March 2011

Comments:

Subject: SUBMISSION OF A MANUSCRIPT FOR EVALUATION

Dear Editor in Chief,

I am enclosing herewith a manuscript entitled ‘Sickle-Cell Disease in Angola” for publication in “BMC Blood Disorders” for possible evaluation.

With the submission of this manuscript I would like to undertake that the above mentioned manuscript has not been published elsewhere, accepted for publication elsewhere or under editorial review for publication elsewhere; and that my Institute’s Hospital Divina Providência representative is fully aware of this submission.

The submitted manuscript is a Research Article.

For the Editors, I would like to disclose the following information about the project. As the sickle-cell disease is one of the most important causes of mortality here in Angola, our laboratory equipe began to collect data in order to assess the sickle-cell disease prevalence in Angola. As in literature we could not be able to find anything useful to evaluate Angolan situation, we decided to start this pilot study. The ultimate aim of this study is to correlate drepanocytosis with blood transfusion in order to understand if children that undergone to a severe anaemia need blood transfusions due to malaria or due to their drepanocytic condition.

This is the first article performed in Angola with reliable data for sickle-cell disease prevalence and for drepanocytic genotypes.

The research project was conducted under the supervision of Isabel Paulo, Pediatric Medical Doctor and no one sponsored this study.

Best Regards,

Cristina Lussiana
Supervisor of Infectious Disease Laboratory
of Hospital Divina Providência, Luanda
Biotechnologist specialized in Infectious Diseases