***Double blind peer review***

***Research Article - Laboratory Investigations anonymized\****

***Manuscript Title***

Short Title: to be used as running head

Keywords: Please provide 3–5 keywords highlighting the most important points of your paper.

\* Please be aware that the Editorial Office does not edit manuscripts before sending them out for review, therefore you include author information or potentially identifiable information at your own risk and accept that this will be visible to reviewers.

**Highlights of the Study**

* A clear statement on the highlights of the study must be provided. Please include a list of bullet points that convey the main findings of your article. Potential readers will use this section to identify what they wish to read, so please make this brief yet informative.
* Please ensure that you include 3 to 5 bullet points, 15 to 20 words per bullet point, no more than 60 words in all. Please avoid the use of abbreviations and acronyms.

**Abstract**

A short Abstract should summarize the main points and reflect the content of the article. It should be written in a clear and concise way and be structured using the following subheadings: Objective, Subject and Methods, Results and Conclusion. Abbreviations used in the main text may be introduced and used. Use neither bibliographic references nor references to figures or tables in the Abstract.

**Introduction**

The Introduction should provide a summary of the background to the relevant field of research and the specific problems addressed and should state the hypotheses being explored as well as the main goal(s) of the study. Conclusions or findings should not appear in the Introduction. Authors should reference their work in an anonymous way, for example “as shown in [1]” rather than “as we previously showed [1]”.

**Materials and Methods**

The Materials and Methods section should clearly describe the materials, animals or subjects, basic design, procedures and the analytical techniques including a brief description of statistical analysis. All terms should be adequately defined and statistical information should be sufficiently detailed so that a study can be repeated. Ethical committee approval and consent declarations should be included in the statement section.

If your manuscript is a clinical trial, the registration should be acknowledged in the ethics section of the manuscript using the following, or similar, wording: “This clinical trial was registered before patient enrolment, trial registration number withheld for review.”

The trial registration number (TRN) should be included in the ethics statement of the statements page that is uploaded separately from the manuscript file and not in the manuscript file.

**Results**

The Results section should describe the most important findings of the study, analysis, or experiment. The most important results should be indicated, and relevant trends and patterns should be described.

**Discussion**The Discussion should provide an evaluation of the results and their importance. There should be a clear discussion of the implications, significance, and novelty of the results presented and whether the data support or contradict previous studies.

**Conclusion**

This section should provide a final conclusion on the significance and implications of the findings. Authors should reference their work in an anonymous way, for example “as shown in [1]” rather than “as we previously showed [1]”.

**Statements anonymized**

All papers must contain the following statements after the main body of the text and before the reference list:

**A****cknowledgement (optional)**

This section should remain blank in this anonymized version.

###### Statement of Ethics

Please address the following aspects in your Statement of Ethics.

Study approval statement: Please include an anonymized version of the study approval statement here. **Do not** provide name and affiliation of the committee who approved the study and the decision reference number. Example anonymized information regarding ethical approval: “This study protocol was reviewed and approved by [committee name withheld for review], approval number [withheld for review].” Do not write name of committee, do not give the approval number.

If ethics approval was not required, or if the study has been granted an exemption from requiring ethics approval, this should also be stated, **excluding** the name of the ethics committee who made that decision.

Consent to participate statement: For studies using human participants, state whether written informed consent was obtained from participants (or their parent/legal guardian/next of kin) to participate in the study. If written informed consent was not required, or if the study has been granted an exemption from requiring written informed consent, this should also be stated, **excluding** the name of the ethics committee who made that decision.

For clinical trials:

The trial registration number (TRN) is an identifier of the author group and should not be added here. The presence of registration should be acknowledged in the ethics section of the manuscript using the following, or similar, wording: “This clinical trial was registered before patient enrolment.”

###### Conflict of Interest Statement

Authors are required to disclose any possible conflicts of interest. All forms of support and financial involvement (e.g. employment, consultancies, honoraria, stock ownership and options, expert testimony, grants or patents received or pending, royalties) which took place in the previous three years should be listed, regardless of their potential relevance to the paper. Also the nonfinancial relationships (personal, political, or professional) that may potentially influence the writing of the manuscript should be declared.

Please include an anonymized version of the Conflict of Interest statement here. If there is no conflict of interest, please state: “The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare.” If an author has a potential conflict of interest to disclose, please formulate this by referring to the author anonymously e.g. “Author 2 has a conflict of interest to declare….” The conflict of interest statement should list the company or entity that is the source of the potential conflict of interest by name.

###### Funding Sources

Authors must give full details about the funding of any research relevant to their study including explanations of the roles of these sources in the study design, execution and analysis, and manuscript conception, planning, writing and decision to publish. If the sponsor or funder had no role in any of the above, please use the following statement: "The funder had no role in the design, data collection, data analysis, and reporting of this study." Please ensure to include any support that could be perceived as a potential conflict of interest in the Conflict of Interest Statement. If no funding was received for the study, please use the following statement: "This study was not supported by any sponsor or funder."

Authors should to provide non- specific funding information. Please write if funding was received, or not, and if, that there is a grant number, but do not specify the number here.

Please use the following example for an anonymized statement:

Funding for this study was provided by [funder name withheld for review], grant number [number withheld for review].

###### Author Contributions

In the Author Contributions section, a short statement detailing the contributions of each person named as an author should be included. Contributors to the paper who do not fulfil the [ICMJE Criteria for Authorship](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.icmje.org%2Frecommendations%2Fbrowse%2Froles-and-responsibilities%2Fdefining-the-role-of-authors-and-contributors.html&data=04%7C01%7Ck.fava%40karger.com%7Cff60788f01494d8ede1508d90a2bbe0c%7C69e7eb606e904a0590b15b8d6d697087%7C0%7C0%7C637552005543144066%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=QBfoT6JcFIpswsIllt2YnvL4fkIMHENDcVTlHkfgnPI%3D&reserved=0) should be credited in the Acknowledgement section.  Please include an anonymized version of the Author Contribution statement here, referring to each author as Author 1, Author 2 in the order they appear in the author list.

Please use the following example for an anonymized statement:

Author 1 and author 3 designed the experiments and analyzed the data. Author 2 and author 4 analyzed the data and prepared the manuscript. All authors approved the final manuscript.

**Data Availability Statement**

Authors are required to provide a Data Availability Statement in their article that details whether data are available and where they can be found. The journal’s data sharing policy strongly encourages authors to make all datasets on which the conclusions of the paper rely available to editors, reviewers and readers without unnecessary restriction wherever possible. In cases where research data are not publicly available on legal or ethical grounds, this should be clearly stated in the Data Availability Statement along with any conditions for accessing the data.

Please use the following examples for an anonymized statement:

The data that support the findings of this study are available in [repository name e.g. “figshare”], identifier withheld for review.

The data that support the findings of this study are available on request from Author 1 OR the corresponding author.

**References [Numerical]**

References in the text should be identified using Arabic numerals [in square brackets].

The reference list should include only those publications which are cited in the text, arranged numerically in the order in which they are cited. More information and examples can be found on the Author Guidelines of the respective journal.

**Important note concerning references of own author group:** Authors should reference their work in an anonymous way, for example “as shown in [1]” rather than “as we previously showed [1]”.

**Figure Legends**

Fig. 1. Legend text.

Fig. 2. Legend text.

Figures should be mentioned in the manuscript text as follows:   
Without round brackets:

“…shown in Figure 1…” or “…shown in Figures 1 and 4…” or “…shown in Figures 2–6…” always with capital letters and written out.

With round brackets:

“(shown in Fig. 1)” or “(shown in Fig. 1, 4)” or “(shown in Fig. 2–6)”, always abbreviated as “Fig.” followed by the number or numbers after a full stop and a space.

In the Legend:

“Fig. 1.” or “Fig. 1. a”, always abbreviated as “Fig.” followed by the number after a full stop and a space

Please note that the actual figures and all tables should be uploaded as separate items in their original file format.