This Agreement is made by each author signing below, in favor of Quintessence Publishing Co, Inc, an Illinois corporation (the “Publisher”), and pertains to:

(referred to in this Agreement as the “Work”). The signature of each author below certifies compliance with all the following statements:

Copyright transfer. In consideration of the acceptance of the above Work for publication, I do hereby assign and transfer to the Publisher all my rights, title, and interest in and to the copyright in the Work, including all its graphic, photographic and image-related elements. This assignment transfers to the Publisher all my rights under any law governing moral rights, publicity rights, privacy rights or other proprietary rights directly or indirectly relating to the Work assigned. This assignment applies to all translations of the Work as well as to preliminary display/posting of the abstract of the accepted article in electronic form before publication. If any changes in authorship (order, deletions, or additions) occur after the manuscript is submitted, agreement by all authors for such changes must be on file with the Publisher. An author’s name may be removed only at his/her written request. (Note: Material prepared by employees of the US government in the course of their official duties cannot be copyrighted.)

Author representations. I attest and warrant that:
1. The manuscript and all other elements of the Work are original work without fabrication, plagiarism, or fraud.
2. The manuscript and all other elements of the Work are not currently under consideration elsewhere and the research reported will not be submitted for publication elsewhere unless a final decision is made that the manuscript is not acceptable for publication by the Publisher.
3. No part of the manuscript or any other element of the Work violates any copyright, moral right or other right of any third party; all graphic, photographic and image-related elements of the Work are used with permission of any person or entity with rights therein; and I agree to provide the Publisher with written evidence of such permission upon the Publisher’s request.
4. I have not previously granted, and will not subsequently grant, to any person or entity other than the Publisher a license, assignment or other authorization of any kind to exercise any rights under copyright relating to the Work. I have not previously participated, and will not subsequently participate, in depositing the Work into any open-access platform or repository.
5. I have made a significant scientific contribution to the study and I am thoroughly familiar with the primary data outlined in the manuscript.
6. I have read the complete manuscript and take responsibility for the content and completeness of the final submitted manuscript; I understand that if the manuscript, or any other element of the Work, is found to be faulty, fraudulent, or in violation of any of my preceding representations, I share responsibility and any potential legal liability.

Conflicts of interest disclosure. All institutional or corporate affiliations of mine and all funding sources supporting the study are acknowledged. Except as disclosed on a separate sheet, I certify that I have no commercial associations (e.g., consultancies, patent-licensing arrangements, equity interests) that might represent a conflict of interest in connection with the submitted manuscript.

Experimental procedures in humans and animals. The Publisher endorses the principles embodied in the Declaration of Helsinki and insists that all investigations involving human beings reported in the Publisher’s journal articles be carried out in conformity with these principles and with similar principles such as those of the American Physiological Society (see http://www.the-aps.org/publications/i4a/policies.htm). In the case of animal experiments, these should also conform to these latter principles or with analogous principles such as those of the International Association for the Study of Pain. In articles reporting experiments involving surgical procedures on animals, the type and dosage of anesthetic agent used must be specified in the Materials and Methods section, and evidence must be provided that anesthesia of suitable grade and duration was achieved. Authors reporting on their experimental work in humans or animals should also cite evidence in the Materials and Methods section of the article that this work has been approved by, respectively, an institutional clinical/human experimentation panel or an institutional animal care and use panel (or equivalent), and that in the case of experimental work in humans, informed consent from each human subject has been obtained. The editor-in-chief and associate editors are expected to refuse articles in which there is no clear evidence that these principles have been adhered to, and they reserve the right to judge the appropriateness of the use of human beings and animals in experiments reported in articles submitted.

This Agreement is governed by the laws of the State of Illinois (United States), without regard to its choice of law principles.

Signature of each author is required in the same order as on the manuscript title page. (Fax or PDF signatures, and multiple forms, are acceptable.) For more than 5 authors, use an extra sheet.

Signature (1) Print name Date
Signature (2) Print name Date
Signature (3) Print name Date
Signature (4) Print name Date
Signature (5) Print name Date

Corresponding author name

Mailing address

Phone Fax E-mail