**Cover Letter**

Dear Dr. Lester de Leon,

We are pleased to send the scientific article entitled “Anosmia and COVID-19: Perspectives on its association and the pathophysiological mechanisms involved” to be considered for publication in The Egyptian Journal of Neurology, Psychiatry and Neurosurgery. We seek to discuss the association between the loss of smell and the SARS-CoV-2 infection, in addition to summarizing the possible pathophysiological pathways involved in the process.

With the spread of the SARS-CoV-2, there is the urgent need for the establishment of emergency contingency measures and mechanisms to facilitate the screening of infected patients. Smell changes have recently been cited as symptoms of the disease, and studies about its association with the COVID-19 are important in order to refine the symptomatic criteria for early isolation.

Due to so many uncertainties and conflicting information about the different clinical presentations of Covid-19, coupled with the lack of tests available to the majority of the population, it is important that its symptoms are well established and disseminated to the public, so that it can recognize it as a possible case of the disease and then institute early isolation measures.

In our study, we found that the loss of smell is strongly related to infection by the SARS-CoV-2, presenting a self-limited character, and generally appearing as an early symptom of the disease. Its pathophysiological pathway is still not well understood, but it seems to be related to the involvement of the olfactory bulb through the cribriform plate, due to the high interaction between the viral surface spikes and the ACE2 receptors, which are widely present in the olfactory bulb.

This manuscript has not been published and is not being considered for publication elsewhere. We have no conflicts of interest. All authors have approved the manuscript and are in agreement with its submission to this journal.

PRS Júnior, ALOR Gomes, LEA Coelho, MA Morais, PVDC Almeida and WJR Neri acted in every phase of the study. AAF Leal collaborated with the design, critical review and approval of the version to be published. GV Mascena acted in the conception and design of the study.

Sincerely,

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