Prof. Felipe Fregni,

Editor-in-chief

*Principles and Practice of Clinical Research*

São Paulo, March 15th, 2016

Dear Prof. Fregni,

On behalf and with the agreement of the authors, I am submitting the Clinical Research Design manuscript “Effect of 12-week dark chocolate intake combined with low-energy diet and exercise on weight loss in obese adults: a phase II randomized controlled trial protocol” for consideration for publication in Principles and Practice of Clinical Research Journal.

We believe that the theme is relevant due to the epidemics of obesity and global search for more effective therapies and better adherence to diet. Moreover, a recent retraction from another journal of a chocolate-diet study due to major design and execution problems that caused worldwide lay and scientific repercussion motivated us to develop and divulge a good quality research protocol on this theme.

We approve the submission of this paper to Principles and Practice of Clinical Research Journalfor publication. We confirm that neither the manuscript submitted nor any part of it has been published or is being considered for publication elsewhere. We confirm that the paper has been read and approved by the authors. We also state that we have no conflict of interest disclose.

Best regards,

Roberta Diaz Savoldelli

Pediatric Endocrinology Unit

Instituto da Criança – HCFMUSP

São Paulo

Brasil