Siena, June 27, 2023

To:

Nicole Low

Special Issue Editors

Dr. Rajeev K Singla

Dr. Vineet Mittal

Dear All,

Thanks for your invitation of 25th June regarding a Special Issue entitled "Current Trends in the Drugs and Biomarkers Discovery for the Treatment and Management of Various Diseases and Disorders", on behalf of all the authors, I submit to your consideration the manuscript “Omicron variants of SARS CoV-2 indicate a new antiviral strategy: interfering with spike glycoprotein trimerization” by Neri Niccolai, Anna Visibelli, Federico Marchini, Pietro Bongini, Monica Bianchini, Alfonso Trezza, Annalisa Santucci and myself.

I feel that the results we have obtained by analyzing the variability of all the complete sequences, which were available as of last March for the viral spike glycoprotein, should be published in Biology. Indeed, we have found that protomeric interfaces of the spike glycoprotein are the most conserved regions and that the Omicron Asp796Tyr mutation enhances the stability of its trimeric assembling. Thus, the consequent successful spreading of Omicron variants suggests that disassembling the spike glycoprotein may represent a very promising antiviral strategy.

I am confident that our manuscript will be considered for publication in Biology and I look forwards to hearing your comments.

Looking forwards to hearing from you.

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