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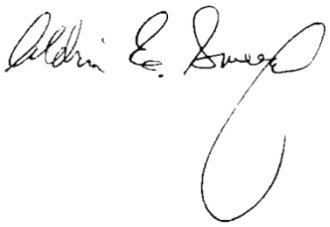
To: Dr. Tetiana Hliebova, Lead author
From: Dr. Aldrin E. Sweeney, Chair, RUSM Institutional Review Board
Re: Manuscript: *When the Grade Disappears: A Natural Experiment Examining Clinical Skills Performance After Removal of Grade Stakes from an Early Objective Structured Clinical Examination*
Date: August 20, 2026

Dear Dr. Hliebova,

I am pleased to inform you that your co-authored manuscript entitled *When the Grade Disappears: A Natural Experiment Examining Clinical Skills Performance After Removal of Grade Stakes from an Early Objective Structured Clinical Examination* has been approved as **exempt from IRB review** (*RUSMIRB exempt #5-IRB2026_05*).

All best wishes as you submit your manuscript for peer review and publication consideration.

Sincerely,



Aldrin E. Sweeney, PhD
Chair, Institutional Review Board
Ross University School of Medicine