Dear Dr Marais,

Thank you for accepting my manuscript for review. I had wanted to add this paragraph of information in my submission, but wasn't sure where to place it without divulging personal information. Therefore, I am sending it to you, so that you can decide if it needs to be divulged during the review process or not.

**Parts of this article were submitted towards a PhD thesis (University of KwaZulu-Natal) entitled “**Effect of infant feeding mode and maternal nutritional supplementation on the nutrition and health of HIV positive mothers and their infants”. The development of predictive equations described in this manuscript formed one of the secondary objectives within the overall prospective study assessing infant feeding mode and infant and maternal health outcomes.

Thank you

kind regards

Gurpreet Kindra