

**Manuscript no. HAEMATOL/2011/052357 entitled “Iron deficiency do not compromise the diagnosis of high HbA2 beta thalassemia trait “**

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**Information about the contributions of each person named as having participated in the study**

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2) Authors who participated in the **conception of the study**: Cristina Passarello, Antonino Giambona, Disma Renda, and Aurelio Maggio

3) **Design & Methods**. The following authors were responsible for specific investigations (please detail):

- Cristina Passarello, Margherita Vinciguerra were responsible for molecular analysis
- Monica Cannata was responsible for the measure of serum Ferritin
- Cristina Passarello was responsible for statistical analysis

4) **Results**. The following authors were responsible for specific portions of the results, including figures and tables (please indicate the person responsible for each figure and each table):

- Cristina Passarello, Antonino Giambona and Aurelio Maggio were responsible for Figure 1

5) **Writing the manuscript**. The following authors were responsible for writing the manuscript:

- Cristina Passarello was responsible for writing the manuscript

6) **Contributors Listed in Acknowledgments**:

The authors would like to thank Foundation “Franca and Piera Cutino”, Palermo-Italy, for the support to this work.