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

- 1) **Guarantor(s)**, i.e., person(s) who is (are) responsible for the integrity of the work as a whole:
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- 2) **Authors who participated in the conception of the study:** Surjit Srail, Harry McArdle

3) **Design & Methods.**

- Surjit Kaila Singh Srail and Harry McArdle were responsible for design of the study.
- The following authors were responsible for specific investigations:
- Sara Balesaria was responsible for animal experiments, liver and duodenal PCR, all liver iron parameters, serum iron measurements
  - Rumeza Hanif was responsible for placental PCRs and Westerns; serum iron measurements
  - Mohamed Salama was responsible for animal experiments
  - Kishor Raja was responsible for the ICP-MS experiments

- 4) **Results.** The following authors were responsible for specific portions of the results, including figures and tables:

- Sara Balesaria was responsible for Table 1, Figure 1, Figure 2(B&C), Figure 4B, Figure 5A, B, C)
- Rumeza Hanif was responsible for Figure 1A, Figure 3, Figure 5D
- Kishor Raja was responsible for Figure 2A, Figure 4A

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

- Sara Balesaria responsible for writing the manuscript
- Henry Bayele was responsible for critically reading the manuscript
- Surjit Srail was responsible for writing and critically reading the manuscript
- Harry McArdle was responsible for critically reading the manuscript

- 6) **Contributors Listed in Acknowledgments:** We thank Michelle Murphy and Helen Hayes for technical help throughout the study.

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