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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:** Sergio Ottolenghi, Walter Witke , Laura Spinardi and Antonella Ellena Ronchi

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

- Walter Witke was responsible for providing gelsolin null mice on a BALB/c congenic strain.
- Maria Teresa Colzani, Ileana Cantù, Gloria Barbarani were responsible for colony husbandry.
- Laura Spinardi and Antonella Ellena Ronchi were responsible for histology, immunocytochemistry, immunofluorescence analysis and PHZ treatment.
- Claudio Cantù, Francesca Bosè, Eva Reali, Antonella Ellena Ronchi were responsible for Fetal liver cell purification, sorting and flow cytometry (FACS)
- Francesca Bosè and Antonella Ellena Ronchi were responsible for quantitative RT-PCR
- Claudio Cantù was responsible for hanging drop culture 24 and osmotic fragility test
- Paola Bianchi was responsible for hematological and biochemical 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):

- Claudio Cantù, Francesca Bosè and Antonella Ellena Ronchi. were responsible for figure 1
- Laura Spinardi and Antonella Ellena Ronchi were responsible for figure 2 and 3
- Claudio Cantù, Francesca Bosè, Eva Reali and Antonella Ellena Ronchi were responsible for figure 4.
- Claudio Cantù, Francesca Bosè, Paola Bianchi, Eva Reali, Laura Spinardi, and Antonella Ellena Ronchi were responsible for figure 5.
- Claudio Cantù, Laura Spinardi, and Antonella Ellena Ronchi were responsible for figure 6 and Online Supplementary Figure S1
- Laura Spinardi was responsible for Online Supplementary Table 1.

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

- Laura Spinardi and Antonella Ellena Ronchi were responsible for Abstract, Introduction, Results and Discussion.

Claudio Cantù and Francesca Bosè were responsible for Design and Methods, and Figure Legends.

- Sergio Ottolenghi and Walter Witke were responsible for Discussion and for revising the manuscript.

**6) Contributors Listed in Acknowledgments:**

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