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Authors: Robert W. Grady, Renzo Galanello, Rachel E. Randolph, Dorothy A. Kleinert, Carlo Dessi, and Patricia J. Giardina

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:

- Robert W. Grady, Division of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology, New York Presbyterian Hospital, New York, NY, USA, rwgrady13@gmail.com.
- Renzo Galanello, Clinica Pediatrica 2a, Dipartimento di Scienze Biomediche e Biotecnologie, Università di Cagliari, Ospedale Regionale Microtemie ASL8, Cagliari, Italy, renzo.galanello@mcweb.unica.it.
- Patricia J. Giardina, Division of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology, New York Presbyterian Hospital, New York, NY, USA, pjgiardi@med.cornell.edu.

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The guarantors of this manuscript confirm that all persons designated as authors qualify for authorship, and that each author has participated sufficiently in the work to take public responsibility for appropriate portions of the content.

2) Authors who participated in the **conception of the study**: Robert W. Grady, Renzo Galanello, Patricia J. Giardina

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

- Robert W. Grady, Renzo Galanello and Patricia Giardina were responsible for the overall design of the study.
- Renzo Galanello and Carlo Dessi were responsible for the recruitment and initial screening of the patients in Italy.
- Patricia J. Giardina and Dorothy A. Kleinert were responsible the screening and daily medical care of the patients while in New York.
- Robert W. Grady was responsible for all scientific aspects of the study.

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

- Robert W. Grady was responsible for the collection and analysis of metabolic specimens, and the generation of the data given in Tables 1-6. All of the other authors provided input into the manner in which the data was presented and interpreted.
- Robert W. Grady, Dorothy A. Kleinert and Patricia J. Giardina were responsible for monitoring the safety measures used in the study.

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

- Robert W. Grady, Renzo Galanello, Rachel E. Randolph and Patricia J. Giardina were responsible for drafting, revising and finalizing the manuscript. Critical input was received from both Dorothy A. Kleinert and Carlo Dessi.

6) Contributors Listed in Acknowledgments:

Charles Mueller, PhD and his staff of nutritionists were responsible for designing, preparing and serving the individualized low-iron meal plans consumed by the patients as well as the collection and measurement of all uneaten food.

Barbra Hormann, RN and her staff of research nurses and aides were responsible for the day to day clinical operations in our Clinical and Translational Science Center.

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