

24 ROYAUME DU MAROC

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INSTITUT AGRONOMIQUE ET  
VÉTÉRINAIRE HASSAN II



المملكة المغربية

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معهد الحسن الثاني للزراعة والبيطرة

Rabat, October 22, 2023

To whom it may concern,

I am Professor Khalid El Allali, a Professor at Hassan II Institute of Agronomy and Veterinary Medicine in Morocco and the President of the first national committee on animal research and ethics. Our committee is the first in Morocco and has just been nominated in April 2021, and we are now working for a few months by examining the ethical aspects of the submitted projects. Most countries in Africa are lacking such committees and we are encouraging other universities to develop these aspects in their research approaches.

The work in the paper submitted by **MERNIZI A. et al.** and entitled “**First Molecular Characterization of Avian Metapneumovirus in Broiler Chickens in Morocco**” was conducted before the implementation of the local Committee of Ethics and therefore didn't undergo an evaluation from our committee. However, being in a veterinary School, our institution guarantees that all animal procedures in research conducted before, including that of **MERNIZI A. al.** are in agreement with the Hassan II and Agronomy and Veterinary Institute of Rabat and the Moroccan Ministry of Agriculture recommendations which are in accordance with international ethical standards (European Union Directive 2010/63/EU) legislation and ARRIVE (Animal Research Reporting of In Vivo Experiments) guidelines.

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