**COVER LETTER**

To,

The Editor-in-chief

Annals of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine (APALM)

**Subject:** Submission of Manuscript for publication

We intend to publish an article entitled **Soluble Transferrin Receptor Levels of Apparently Healthy Adults in Port Harcourt Nigeria** in your journal as an original article. Iron deficiency anaemia is one of the common causes of anaemia worldwide and leads to mortality and morbidity especially in children in the developing countries like Nigeria which is resource poor. Bone marrow aspiration, stained with Perl”s stain is used to determine bone marrow iron stores and make a diagnosis of iron deficiency anaemia but it cannot be used routinely to screen for iron deficiency before onset of anaemia due to its cost and other drawbacks. It is important to obtain a screening test for iron deficiency before anaemia sets in, which could be used routinely to screen individuals for iron deficiency and hence replenish their iron stores, therefore reducing the morbidity and mortality associated with iron deficiency anaemia. The aim of this study is to determine the soluble transferrin receptor levels(sTfR) and reference range of the study population. This could be used for screening the populace for iron deficiency. Subsequent studies will involve determining sTfR levels in children, pregnant women and in disease states.

Ethical approval was duly obtained for this study and was granted by the Ethical Committee of the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital. On behalf of all the contributors I will act and guarantor and will correspond with the journal from this point onward.

All authors of this case report declare that we qualify for authorship. Each author has participated sufficiently in the work and takes public responsibility for appropriate portions of the content of this article. Each author also acknowledges that this final version was read and approved. We also certify that this work is not considered elsewhere for publication and has not been presented anywhere. There are no conflicts of interest related to this work, to the best of our knowledge.

We have read the Copyright Policy of the Journal and agree to abide by the same in the event such work is published by the journal.

We would like to suggest following **reviewer**(s) for the article.

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| **S.No.** | **Name** | **Name of institute** | **Email id** |
| 1 | Dr Kaladada Korubo | University of Port Harcourt teaching Hospital, Port Harcourt, Nigeria | dadakorubo@yahoo.com |
| 2 | Dr Theresa Nwagha | University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital, Enugu, Nigeria | tessynwagha@yahoo.com |
| 3 | Dr Anazoeze Madu | University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital, Enugu, Nigeria | anazoezemadu@yahoo.com |
| 4 |  |  |  |

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely,

**Name: Dr Chilota Efobi**

**Email: chylowb@yahoo.com**

Date: 27th December 2016

Place: Chukwuemeka Odumegwu University Teaching Hospital, Akwa, Anambra State, Nigeria.