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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: Helen A. Papadaki

3) Design & Methods. The following authors were responsible for specific investigations (please detail):
   • Helen A. Papadaki and Maria Velegraki were responsible for providing samples.
   • Konstantia I. Pavlaki and Michail Klontzas were responsible for cell separation and genomic DNA extraction.
   • Maria-Christina Kastrinaki was responsible for molecular assays.
   • Konstantia I. Pavlaki and Irene Mavroudi were responsible for Real Time quantitative PCR for telomere length measurement.
   • Konstantia I. Pavlaki was responsible for telomerase activity determination.
   • Konstantia I. Pavlaki and Maria Velegraki were responsible for Real Time quantitative PCR for human telomerase reverse transcriptase (hTERT) expression.
   • Helen A. Papadaki was responsible for statistical 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):
   • Helen A. Papadaki, Konstantia I. Pavlaki were responsible for figures 1 - 4.
   • Helen A. Papadaki, Konstantia I. Pavlaki, Maria Velegraki were responsible for table 1.

5) Writing the manuscript. The following authors were responsible for writing the manuscript:
   • Helen A. Papadaki was responsible for Introduction, Design and Methods, Results and Discussion.
   • Konstantia Pavlaki was responsible for Design and Methods.

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