

The Pirbright Institute  
Ash Road  
Woking  
GU24 0NF

May 18<sup>th</sup> 2018

To whom it may concern,

We have the pleasure of submitting our manuscript entitled:  
"An *ex vivo* chicken primary bursal-cell culture model to study IBDV pathogenesis".

Here, we describe the isolation of chicken primary bursal cells from the bursa of Fabricius, the culture and infection of the cells with IBDV, and quantification of viral replication. This model has the potential to expand our understanding of how avian B-cell tropic viruses interact with their host cells while reducing the number of birds used in *in vivo* infection studies. The techniques can be applied to multiple lymphoid organs, multiple viruses and potentially multiple species of birds, making it an attractive model that can contribute to the avian virology and immunology fields.

We hope that the manuscript will make a valuable addition to your journal and look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours faithfully,



Andrew Broadbent  
MA VetMB MSc PhD MRCVS

Research Fellow  
The Pirbright Institute