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To Whom It May Concern:

**RE: Acute PresentatiOn of CoLorectal Cancer: an internatiOnal snapshot (APOLLO)**

The APOLLO study is coordinated by the Student Audit and Research in Surgery (STARSurg) collaborative and the European Students Research Collaborative (EuroSurg), research collaboratives based at the University of Birmingham, a public research university in the United Kingdom.

This letter is to confirm that Dr Francesco Pata and Dr Gianluca Pellino have been appointed as Italy leads for the APOLLO study and to support ethical approval in Italian hospitals. Dr Pata and Dr Pellino can formally be considered Italian referents for APOLLO ethical approval. Ethical offices can officially consider Dr Pata and Dr Pellino as referees to obtain explanations about the study protocol.

Yours faithfully,

**Sivesh Kamarajah, BMedSci MBChB MRCS**

**STARSurg Senior Lead**

**On behalf of the APOLLO Study Steering Group**