

*Appendix C. AI Disclosure Statement*

Artificial intelligence (AI) tools were used in a limited capacity to assist in language refinement, grammar checking, and formatting of the manuscript. These tools were also used to support the organization and clarity of the presentation of ideas. However, all substantive components of the study—including the research design, data collection, data analysis, interpretation of findings, and formulation of conclusions—were carried out solely by the author.

The author has carefully reviewed and verified all outputs generated with the assistance of AI tools and assumes full responsibility for the accuracy, originality, and integrity of the manuscript.