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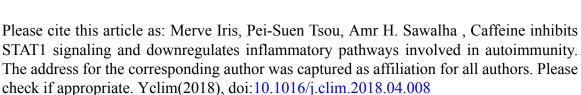
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## **ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT**

 $Caffeine\ in hibits\ STAT1\ signaling\ and\ downregulates\ inflammatory\ pathways\ involved\ in\ autoimmunity$ 

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#### **ABSTRACT**

Caffeine is a widely consumed pharmacologically active product. We focused on characterizing immunomodulatory effects of caffeine on peripheral blood mononuclear cells. Caffeine at high doses showed a robust downregulatory effect on cytokine activity and genes related to several autoimmune diseases including lupus and rheumatoid arthritis. Dose-dependent validation experiments showed

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