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RESEARCH ARTICLE | NOVEMBER 02 2021

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Cite as: J. Appl. Phys. 130, 173902 (2021); doi: 10.1063/5.0069884 Submitted: 2 September 2021 · Accepted: 14 October 2021 · Published Online: 2 November 2021

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 ABSTRACT

 We investigate the electronic and magnetic properties of Ca₂CrIrO₆ and Ca₂FeIrO₆ by means of density functional theory. These materials belong to a family of recently synthesized Ca₂CrOsO₆, we found the system to exhibit a stable ferrimagnetic configuration with a bandgap of ~0.25 eV and an effective magnetic moment of ~2.58µ_B per unit cell. Furthermore, when chemical doping is considered by replacing Cr with Fe and Os

replacement of Os by Ir in Ca₂CrOsO₆, we found the system to exhibit a stable ferrimagnetic configuration with a bandgap of ~0.25 eV and an effective magnetic moment of ~2.58 μ_B per unit cell. Furthermore, when chemical doping is considered by replacing Cr with Fe and Os with Ir, the material retains the insulating state but with a reduced bandgap of 0.13 eV and large increment in the effective magnetic moment of ~6.68 μ_B per unit cell. These observed behaviors are noted to be the consequence of the cooperative effect of spin–orbit coupling; Coulomb correlations from Cr-3*d*, Fe-3*d*, and Ir-5*d* electrons; and the crystal field effect of the materials. These calculations suggest that by chemical tuning, one can manipulate the bandgap and their effective magnetic moment, which may help in material fabrication for device applications. To check further the suitability and applicability of Ca₂CrIrO₆ and Ca₂FeIrO₆ at higher temperatures, we estimate the Curie temperature (*T*_C) by calculating the spin–exchange coupling. We found that our findings are in a valid *T*_C trend similar to other perovskites. Our findings are expected to be useful in experimental synthesis and transport measurement for potential applications in modern technological devices.

I. INTRODUCTION

Double perovskites (DPs), derived from the general formula A₂BB'O₆ [where B and B' cations are transition metals (TMs) and A and A' sites are alkaline or rare earth metals], are found to have various properties with potential applications. Transition metal (TM)-based DPs are of interest due to their remarkable properties including structural stability, high charge mobility, finite bandgap, superconductivity, half-metallicity, piezo-electricity, thermoelectricity, topological properties, etc. These peculiar properties are important to integrate with modern technological devices.¹⁻ Recently, various DP materials have been reported with different

novel properties, such as antiferromagnetism (AFM) in SrLaNiIrO₆, weak paramagnetism (PM) in SrLaMgIrO₆,¹⁰ ferromagnetism in Ba_2NiUO_6 ,¹¹ magnetic insulating state in Sr_2CuOsO_6 une Sr_2NiOsO_6 ,¹² half-semi-metallic AFM in Sr_2CrOsO_6 (SCOO) and Sr_2NiOsO_6 ,¹² half-semi-metallic AFM in Sr_2CrOsO_6 (SCOO) and Sr_2NiOsO_6 ,¹³ half-semi-metallic AFM in Sr_2CrOsO_6 (SCOO) and Sr_2NiOsO_6 ,¹⁴ half-semi-metallic AFM in Sr_2CrOsO_6 (SCOO) and Sr_2NiOsO_6 ,¹⁵ half-semi-metallic AFM in Sr_2CrOsO_6 (SCOO) and Sr_2NiOsO_6 ,¹⁶ half-semi-metallic AFM in Sr_2CrOsO_6 (SCOO) and Sr_2NiOsO_6 ,¹⁷ half-semi-metallic AFM in Sr_2CrOsO_6 (SCOO) and Sr_2NiOsO_6 ,¹⁸ half-semi-metallic AFM in Sr_2CrOsO_6 (SCOO) and Sr_2NiOsO_6 ,¹⁹ half-semi-metallic AFM in Sr_2CrOsO_6 (SCOO) and Sr_2NiOsO_6 (SCOO) half-semi-metallic AFM in Sr_2CrOsO_6 (SCOO) half-semi-met Sr₂CrIrO₆ (SCIO),¹⁴ Dirac insulating ferromagnetic (FM) state near 100 K,¹⁵ and quantum anomalous Hall (QAH) effect in Ba₂NiOsO₆.¹⁶ The A-site occupied with a transition metal in DP Mn_2FeReO_6 shows half-metallic ferrimagnetism with a transition temperature of 520 K above room temperature with a positive magnetoresistance behavior.¹⁷ In a few cases, Coulomb correlation is



sufficient to explore the Mott insulating state in AFM systems such as Ca2MgOsO₆ and Sr2MgOsO₆.¹⁸ Based on density functional theory (DFT) calculations, it was reported that the Mott insulating state of Sr₂NiOsO₆, Sr₂FeOsO₆, and Sr₂NiRuO₆ arises as a result of electron-correlation and spin-orbit coupling (SOC).¹⁹ A study by Monte Carlo simulations on Sr₂VMoO₆ shows the dependency of blocking temperature, magnetic properties on the crystal field, the system size, and the coupling constants, and on Lu₂MnCoO₆, phase transitions and the magnetic stability along with exchange coupling were calculated.²⁰

In addition, the correlated-metal oxides, in particular, iridates and rhodates, lead to unconventional phases.^{22,23} Among them, iridate-based materials that yield various unconventional phases in cooperation with strongly correlated effects due to the strong Coulomb interaction among electrons have shown interesting features. For example, Sr₂IrO₄^{24,25} is reported as a Mott insulator, Ln₂Ir₂O₇²² is a topological Mott insulator, Y₂Ir₂O₇²⁶ is a topological semimetal with a Fermi-arc on the surface, $Pr_2MgIrO_6^{-27}$ is a ferrimagnetic (FIM) Mott-Hubbard insulator, Bi₂FeIrO₆²⁸ is an FM insulator, and PrSrMgIrO₆ shows half-metallic AFM (HMAFM) with zero effective moment per unit cell.²⁹ A secondorder transition and ferrimagnetism have been reported on $Sr_2RuHoO_6^{30}$ with the mean-field approximation (MFA) and Monte Carlo calculations.

Here, we report Ca2CrIrO6 (CCIO) and Ca2FeIrO6 (CFIO), which have no experimental or theoretical information on the magnetic transition temperature yet. For investigating the electronic and magnetic transition temperatures, we take Ca2CrOsO6 (CCOO) as a reference material, which is found to be an FIM insulator with a large Curie temperature $(T_{\rm C})$ of 490 K.³¹ The reference material Ca2CrOsO6 was reported by some of us as an FIM insulator with a total magnetic moment $\mu_{tot} = 0.21 \mu_B$ per unit cell.³² In this work, we propose Ca₂CrIrO₆ and Ca₂FeIrO₆, obtained by substituting Fe in place of Cr and Ir in place of Os, as new FIM insulators in the family of Ca₂BB'O₆. The materials are expected to be

suitable for spintronic device applications. To our knowledge and survey, there is no report yet on these new materials. The main motivation to explore Ca₂CrIrO₆ and Ca₂FeIrO₆ was to obtain (i) high transition temperature $(T_{\rm C})$ above room temperature, (ii) FIM insulating ground state, and (iii) small effective moment. With electron doping, the material is expected to show new properties with rise in $T_{\rm C}$. The associated features are expected to be important in new DP-based spintronic devices that work at room temperature. With this report, we expect that new materials can be synthesized experimentally based on this result. Here, we report the structural, electronic, and magnetic properties on the basis of DFT calculations. Section II presents the computational methods, while results and discussion are presented in Sec. III. Finally, conclusions of the research are provided in Sec. IV.

II. COMPUTATIONAL METHOD

To investigate the electronic and magnetic properties^{38,39} of the \bigcirc proposed materials, DFT calculations were performed with the fullpotential linearized augmented plane wave method as implemented in WIEN2k code³⁵ and the all-electron full-potential local-orbital (FPLO)^{36,37} code using the standard generalized gradient approximation (GGA) of Perdew-Burke-Ernzerhof (PBE).⁴⁰ To incorporate the correlation effects, Coulomb interaction U is 4 eV for Cr, 5 eV for Fe, and 1.5 eV for $Ir^{41,42}$. The magnetic anisotropy energy (MAE) was $\frac{\omega}{2}$ and 1.5 eV for Ir $\frac{1}{2}$. The magnetic anisotropy energy (MAE) was a calculated by a self-consistent full-relativistic mode. A set of 500 get *k*-points was used within the full Brillouin zone, which produces a set of $8 \times 8 \times 6$ *k*-mesh. To consider different magnetic configurations, a the monoclinic structure (space group 14) was split to lower symme-try (space group 2: $P\bar{1}$) that corresponds to 20 inequivalent atoms.



FIG. 1. Crystal structure of Ca2BirO6 (gray, purple, sky blue, green, maroon, and red spheres correspond to Ca, Cr, Ir, Os, Fe, and O atoms, respectively).

parameters opted for the calculations are a = 5.351 Å, b = 5.456 Å, and c = 7.620 Å. On the basis of adaptation of the Goldschmidt tolerance factor $t = (r_A + r_0)/\sqrt{2}((r_B/2) + (r'_B/2) + r_0)$, ³³ where r_A , r_B , and $r_{B'}$ are the ionic radii of the respective ions and r_0 is the ionic radius of oxygen, we select Fe and Ir elements for substitutions to obtain Ca₂CrIrO₆ and Ca₂FeIrO₆ structure, respectively. For the DP family, it is well known that if t < 0.97, the compound is either monoclinic or orthorhombic.³

To check the stability of the substituted compounds, the cohesive and formation energies for both the compounds are calculated,

$$E_{For} = E_{\text{Ca}_2\text{BIrO}_6}^{Tot} - \left[2E_{\text{Ca}}^{bulk} + E_{\text{B}}^{bulk} + E_{\text{Ir}}^{bulk} + 6E_{\text{O}}^{bulk}\right]$$
(1)

and

$$E_{Coh} = E_{Ca_2 BIrO_6}^{Tot} - \left[2E_{Ca}^{iso} + E_B^{iso} + E_{Ir}^{iso} + 6E_O^{iso} \right],$$
(2)

where B = Cr, Fe; $E_{Ca_2BIrO_6}^{Tot}$ is the total energy obtained from DFT for Ca₂BIrO₆; E_{Ca}^{bulk} , E_B^{bulk} , E_B^{bulk} , and E_O^{bulk} are energies of the bulk of Ca, B, Ir, and O elements; and E_{Ca}^{iso} , E_B^{iso} , E_{Ir}^{iso} , and E_O^{iso} are energies of isolated Ca, B, Ir, and O elements, respectively. The formation and cohesive energies per atom for the materials Ca2CrIrO6 and Ca_2FeIrO_6 are found to be -2.84, -2.66, -4.54, and -4.25 eV, respectively. The negative values for both cohesive and formation energies confirm that both the materials have a thermodynamically stable structure and are possible to synthesize experimentally.

We then analyze the electronic and magnetic properties of DP. We begin our discussion starting from the magnetic ground state. For this, we first optimize the internal parameters and have considered five types of magnetic configurations: one FM (FM1- $\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow$), two AFM (AF1- $\uparrow\downarrow\uparrow\downarrow$, AF2- $\uparrow\downarrow\downarrow\uparrow\uparrow$), and two FIM (FIM1- $\uparrow\uparrow\downarrow\downarrow\downarrow$, FIM2- $\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\downarrow\downarrow$), respectively, for both the systems with an energy difference of 159 and 80 meV between FIM1 and first excited FM structure for Ca2CrIrO6 and Ca2FeIrO6, respectively. FIM1 is found to have the lowest energy for both the materials indicating the magnetic ground state with a magnetic easy axis along the [010] direction for Ca₂CrIrO₆ and along the [100] direction for Ca₂FeIrO₆, and MAE is found to be 8 and 12 meV, respectively.

In Ca₂CrIrO₆, within GGA, the TM Cr takes the charge state the +3 with $3d^3$ configuration and is coupled ferrimagnetically with Ir. The three d electrons of Cr go to t_{2g} states for the spin-up channel and hence remain in the valence region, while for the spindown channel, they remain in the conduction region and the e_g state remains empty for both channels so it lies in the conduction region. For Ir, it takes charge state +5 with the d^4 configuration where three electrons go to the spin-down channel in the t_{2q} state and hence remain close to the Fermi level (E_F) in the valence region and one remaining electron goes to the t_{2g} state with spin-up forming a low spin state as seen in Fig. 2.

Likewise, in Ca₂FeIrO₆, Fe has five outer most electrons with a $3d^5$ configuration and has a charge state +3 and is found to be occupied in the spin-up channel and empty in the spin-down channel. Hence, the density of states (DOS) lies deep in the valence $\frac{1}{2}$ region while states in the spin-down channel lie far in the conduc- $\frac{\omega}{2}$ tion region giving rise to the high spin state of Fe. In the case of Ir, § it has a $5d^4$ configuration with the charge state +5. The three outermost electrons reside for the spin-down channel and hence they remain in the upper most valence region just below the Fermi level (E_F) and one remaining electron goes to the t_{2g} state giving a low



FIG. 2. The total and partial density of states (PDOS) of Ca₂CrIrO₆ within GGA (left), GGA + U (middle) and GGA + U + SOC functional (right), respectively. (a) Total density of states (DOS), (b) partial DOS of Cr-3d, (c) PDOS of Ir-5d, and (d) PDOS of O-2p atoms for spin-up (1) and spin-down (1) for Ca2CrIrO6. The vertical dotted line indicates $E_F = 0$.

spin state as in Fig. 3. Two unoccupied t_{2g} states are found in the conduction region represented by a peak for the spin-up channel.

The presence of 3*d* elements in the material is supposed to have a strong correlation effect, which was ignored in the calculations within GGA. Here, we extend our calculation with GGA + *U* taking U = 4 eV for Cr, 5 eV for Fe, and 1.5 eV for Ir. Since the strength of the SOC in Ir plays a significant role indicating the electronic properties, we further performed calculations with GGA + *U* + SOC. As expected, the metallic state transforms to the semiconducting state with bandgaps of 0.25 and 0.13 eV for Cr and Fe, respectively. After SOC, we observe a noticeable change in the Ir-5*d* bands in which it splits near E_F as observed in DOS and band structures (see Figs. 2–4).

The spin resolved total and partial density of states (PDOS) for Ca_2CrIrO_6 within GGA, GGA + U, and GGA + U + SOC are shown in Figs. 2 and 3. The major contribution to the total DOS around E_F is mainly from Cr-3d, Ir-5d, and O-2p states. The Ir-5d states are found to play a key role indicating the electronic properties. They are found to hybridize strongly with the O-2p states in both spin channels. Their hybridization occurs mostly in the valence region near E_F and in the conduction region. We observe that $Ir - t_{2g}$ states are fully occupied in spin-down channels and thus lie in the valence region, whereas in the spin-up channel, the states being empty lie in the conduction region along with other unoccupied $Ir-e_g$ states. This is found to be consistent with the ionic picture of Ir. The charge transfer effect is prominent between Ir-5d and O-2p states due to strong hybridization. This induces sizable moments in oxygen atoms, which get polarized in parallel with Ir atoms.

We further considered the magnetic behavior of Ca₂BIrO₆. As tabulated in Table I, the calculated magnetic moments for Fe and Ir sites are found to be $4.12\mu_B$ and $-0.73\mu_B$, respectively. The

calculated orbital moment at the Fe site is small, that is, $0.027\mu_B$, and aligns in the same direction as the spin moment, confirming the half-filled $5d^5$ configuration of Fe in Ca₂FeIrO₆, which is in accordance with Hund's third rule.⁴³ The calculated orbital moment at the Ir site is found to be $-0.26\mu_B$ in a parallel direction with spin magnetic moments contributing to an effective magnetic moment of $6.66\mu_B$ per unit cell.

Moving on to Ca₂CrIrO₆, the spin and orbital moments for Cr are found to be $2.54\mu_B$ and $-0.1\mu_B$, respectively, and align in the antiparallel direction showing that the 3*d* orbital is either less or more than half filled. From Table I, the spin magnetic moment in Ir is slightly reduced due to the Ir–O hybridization and influence of SOC, whereas in Ir-5*d*, orbital magnetic moments are found to be $-0.28\mu_B$ in the same direction of the orbital magnetic moment of Cr, which increases the net magnetic moment to $2.59\mu_B$.

Due to the partial charge transfer from Cr, Fe, and Ir to oxygen, it also gains a sizeable moment of $0.08\mu_B$ in Ca₂CrIrO₆ and $0.01\mu_B$ in Ca₂FeIrO₆, and polarization is mainly on O-2*p* orbitals consistent with the spin magnetization isosurface plot shown in Fig. 5. Here, the polarization is mainly found in 2p orbitals, and this hybridized moment in oxygen increases the resultant moment. Interestingly, the developed magnetic moments at the O site are aligned in the direction of the Ir moment, suggesting a stronger interaction among Ir–O than that of Cr–O in Ca₂CrIrO₆.

Further to note in Fig. 5 is that the isosurface of Cr-3d states g_{g} is in a dumb-bell-like shape, which is formed due to the t_{2g} orbitals. The contribution of charge distribution is due to the t_{2g} state, g_{g} and to Ir, charge distribution is in the spin-down channel in t_{2g} states. Upon replacement of the Cr by Fe atom, both the t_{2g} state are fully occupied in the spin-up channel but remain empty in the spin-down channel. Hence, the contribution



FIG. 3. The total and partial DOS of Ca₂FeIrO₆ within GGA (left), GGA + U (middle), and GGA + U + SOC functional (right), respectively. (a) Total density of states (DOS), (b) partial DOS of Fe-3*d*, (c) PDOS of Ir-5*d*, and (d) PDOS of O-2*p* atoms for spin-up (\uparrow) and spin-down (\downarrow) for Ca₂FeIrO₆. The vertical dotted line indicates $E_F = 0$.



FIG. 4. The band structures of Ca₂CrIrO₆ (left) and Ca₂FeIrO₆ (right) within GGA + U + SOC. The horizontal dotted line indicates $E_F = 0$.

to the spin magnetization is by both t_{2g} and e_g states. As a result, the isosurface of Fe is spherical, and Ir contribution remains the same as in Fig. 5 (right).

In order to understand the suitability of the proposed materials, we have computed the spin-exchange coupling parameters by computing the total energy for several collinear spin configurations

$$\hat{H} = -\sum_{i < j} J_{ij} \hat{S}_i \hat{S}_j, \tag{3}$$

considered for calculations.

computing the total energy for several collinear spin configurations of Cr, Fe, and Ir and are mapped into the spin model. For the same, we utilize the exchange parameters for estimating the mag-netic transition temperature based on the Heisenberg model of mean-field approximation (MFA). The Hamiltonian for the interaction of spins can be written as $\hat{H} = -\sum_{i < j} J_{ij} \hat{S}_i \hat{S}_j$, (3) TABLE I. Calculated spin magnetic moments (in μ_B) of B (Cr/Fe), B' (Ir), three oxygen atoms, and bandgap " E_g " (eV). The calculated orbital moments at B and B' sites are shown within parentheses for Ca₂BIrO₆ HM denotes the half-metallic state.

Site	Ca ₂ CrIrO ₆			Ca ₂ FeIrO ₆		
	GGA	GGA + U	GGA + U + SOC	GGA	GGA + U	GGA + U + SOC
В	2.12	2.55	2.54/-0.073	3.48	4.12	4.12/0.027
Β′	-0.72	-0.96	-0.82/-0.284	-0.55	-0.87	-0.728/-0.263
O1	-0.08	-0.10	-0.078	0.0061	-0.038	-0.007
O2	-0.076	-0.11	-0.083	0.015	-0.023	0.003
O3	-0.072	-0.10	-0.085	0.012	-0.025	-0.009
Tot. mom.	2.0	2.0	2.59	6.0	5.99	6.66
Eg	НМ	HM	0.25	HM	HM	0.13

shown within parentheses for Ca₂BIrO₆ HM denotes the half-metallic state.



FIG. 5. Isosurface of spin magnetization density at $+0.23e/A^3$ with red (blue) for spin-up (down): left, Ca2FelrO6; right, material with Cr replacement Ca2CrIrO₆ [royal blue, sky blue, maroon, and red colors represent Ir, Ca, Cr (Fe), and O, respectively].



FIG. 6. Computed magnetic exchange interactions in the double perovskite configuration Ca2CrIrO6 and Ca2FeIrO6. The atom label M in the figure refers to Cr or Fe

TABLE II. Estimated magnetic exchange coupling parameters (in meV) for double perovskite Ca2MIrO6, M = Cr/Fe.

Interaction	Description	Nearest neighbor	M = Cr	M = Fe	Distance (A°)
J_1 J_2	M–Ir Ir–Ir	6 12	-3.21 -4.25	-3.55 -0.8	3.82/3.81 5.39
J ₃	M-M	12	5.85	-0.32	5.45/5.35



FIG. 7. Calculated vs measured Curie temperatures for different double perovskites.

badec We have also estimated the Curie temperature of the proposed materials using the mean-field theory as from

$$T_{\rm C} = S_i S_j \frac{2}{3} \frac{\sum J_{ij}}{K_B}, \qquad (4)$$

where S_i and S_j are the spin quantum numbers at *i* and *j* sublattices, respectively. Our calculated T_C are found to be 906 and 836 K for Ca₂CrIrO₆ and Ca₂FeIrO₆, respectively. As shown in Fig. 7, we have compared the measured and calculated Curie temperatures. Different DPs with their respective T_C presented in Fig. 7 are Ba₂FeMOO₆ (BFMO),⁴⁴ Sr₂CrBeeO₆ (SFRO),⁴⁴ Sr₂CrMOO₆ (SCMO),⁴⁵ Sr₂CrWO₆ (SCWO),⁴⁴ Ca₂CrOsO₆ (CCOO),^{31,46} Ca₂MnOsO₆ (CMOO),⁴⁶ Sr₂CrReO₆ (SCRO),⁴⁷ Sr₂CrOsO₆ (SCOO),⁴⁸ Sr₂CrIrO₆ (SCIO),⁴⁹ O Sr_2CrReO_6 (SCRO),⁴⁷ Sr_2CrOsO_6 (SCOO),⁴⁸ Sr_2CrIrO_6 (SCIO),⁴ G_{a_2} CrIrO₆ (SCRO), G_{a_2} CrIrO₆ (SCIO), G_{a_2} CrIrO₆ (SCIO), G_{a_2} CrIrO₆ (CCIO), and G_{a_2} FeIrO₆ (CFIO). By comparing the calculated T_C of the materials with a similar work as reported by Mandal *et al.*,⁴⁹ we found a decent agreement of our result though no experimental report of T_C has been studied on these materials. Our theoretmental report of $T_{\rm C}$ has been studied on these materials. Our theoretical value of $T_{\rm C}$ for the studied compounds may be slightly larger than their true values in similar materials. This may happen since the mean-field theory often overestimates the $T_{\rm C}$, and the absolute value of $T_{\rm C}$ depends on the selected U values. Nonetheless, our results are expected to give a valid $T_{\rm C}$ trend as observed in Fig. 7 for the considered compounds.⁶

We performed density functional theory to identify the electronic, magnetic, and ordering temperatures of yet to be synthesized materials Ca₂CrIrO₆ and Ca₂FeIrO₆. We found that they are insulating in nature under the cooperative effect of Coulomb interactions and spin-orbit coupling. The effect is found to be significant in opening the bandgap. The bandgap was noted to be 0.25 eV for Ca2CrIrO6 and 0.13 eV for Ca2FeIrO6. Furthermore, we estimated the Curie temperature $(T_{\rm C})$ that was found to be 906 and $836\,K$ for Ca_2CrIrO_6 and $Ca_2FeIrO_6,$ respectively, which are in a valid T_C range as in other similar compounds. Our predicted value is expected to initiate further experimental efforts to verify the interesting predictions made in this work.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

S.R.B. acknowledges the Nepal Academy of Science and Technology, Khumaltar, Nepal, for the Ph.D. fellowship. M.P.G. acknowledges the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, Germany, for the equipment subsidy grants. S.K.C. acknowledges the faculty start-up grant provided by Davidson College of Engineering at San José State University. S.R.B. and M.P.G. are grateful for fruitful discussions with M. Richter and J. van den brink of IFW Dresden. Computations were performed at IFW Dresden, Germany, and Advanced Materials Research Laboratory, Central Department of Physics, Tribhuvan University, Nepal. We are thankful to Ulrike Nitzsche for the technical assistance.

AUTHOR DECLARATIONS

Conflict of Interest

The authors have no conflicts to disclose.

DATA AVAILABILITY

The data that support the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request.

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