Author's response to reviews

Title: The WISTAH Hand Study: A Prospective Cohort Study of Distal Upper Extremity Musculoskeletal Disorders

Authors:

Arun Garg (arun@uwm.utah.edu)
Kurt T Hegmann (kurt.hegmann@hsc.utah.edu)
Jacqueline J Wertsch (wertschi@mcw.edu)
Jay Kapellusch (kap@uwm.edu)
Matthew S Thiese (matt.thiese@hsc.utah.edu)
Donald Bloswick (don.bloswick@utah.edu)
Andrew Merryweather (a.merryweather@utah.edu)
Richard Sesek (sesek@auburn.edu)
Gwen Deckow-Schaefer (grds@uwm.edu)
James Foster (jfoster@infinityhealthcare.com)
Eric Wood (eric.wood@hsc.utah.edu)
Richard Kendall (Richard.kendall@hsc.utah.edu)
Xiaoming Sheng (Xiaoming.sheng@hsc.utah.edu)
Richard Holubkov (Richard.Holubkov@pharm.utah.edu)
WISTAH Hand Study Team (matt.thiese@hsc.utah.edu)

Version: 2 Date: 23 April 2012

Author's response to reviews: see over
BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders
Online Submission of Study Methods
April 23, 2012

BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders,

On behalf of all of the authors of this submission, I am pleased to submit the manuscript “The WISTAH Hand Study: A Prospective Cohort Study of Distal Upper Extremity Musculoskeletal Disorders” for consideration for publication. This is a study protocol of a multi-center multi-year prospective cohort that to date has enrolled more than 1,000 participants, evaluating personal and occupational factors related to distal upper extremity disorders including Carpal Tunnel Syndrome and Lateral Epicondylitis. We are anticipating publishing multiple original articles investigating factors related to these disorders.

We have completed the submission guidelines, however we understood that study protocols were not peer reviewed. Regardless, we submitted names for suggested peer reviewers.

We originally included IRB approval letters from each site, as well as the funding letter from CDC/NIOSH as Appendix D, however this has been removed as requested. There is no longer an Appendix D, and all references to this appendix have been removed from the body of the text.

If you have any questions or need clarification of any aspects of our study, please do not hesitate to contact me at matt.thiese@hsc.utah.edu or 801.587.3322.

Thank you for your consideration of the submitted manuscript.

Respectfully,

Matthew S. Thiese, PhD, MSPH
Assistant Professor
Rocky Mountain Center for Occupational and Environmental Health
University of Utah
391 Chipeta Way, Suite C
Salt Lake City, UT 84108