Reviewer's report

Title: A preliminary survey of the practice patterns of United States Guild Certified Feldenkrais Practitioners (CM)

Version: 1  Date: 14 January 2010

Reviewer: Harald Johan Hamre

Reviewer's report:

This is, according to the author, the first preliminary survey of Feldenkrais Practitioners. As such it is of some interest.

Major Compulsory revisions.

1. The response rate is 32% of those asked, and 30% of the population of FK practitioners. This is low and threatens the validity of the presented data. If possible, a non-response analysis should be performed by comparing data of the survey (e.g. the distribution of FK practitioners among US states) with the member database of the US Guild of FK practitioners. If that should not be possible, this should be explicitly stated and the author should discuss potential consequences of the low response rate for the validity of the data and their implications for further research.

2. It would be very desirable to include some comparison of the practice patterns of the FK practitioners to those of other CAM practitioners.

Minor Essential Revisions

3. Abstract, Background, last sentence: "The purpose of this study…" This sentence describes what you did rather than the purpose of it. The purpose was probably "to get a first overview of practitioner characteristics in the USA" or similar.

4. Abstract/Results. 32.3% response rate: Please provide also n=xxx

5. Abstract/Conclusions. The first 4 out of 5 sentences repeat the results given above. This should be abbreviated to 1 or at most 2 sentences.

6. Background. The information on Moshe Feldenkrais should be moved to the beginning of this section. The author might also consider moving the info on FK training further up, before the info on empirical studies.

7. Background, peer-review studies, refs 6-16: It would be advantageous to know a little about the design of these studies, e.g. case reports, observational, randomized etc.

8. Results/Client visits. Numbers are presumably means (SD). This should be stated here. Since data are probably not normally distributed, with high SDs relative to means, medians are probably more meaningful and should be presented in addition to or instead of means. This also applies to the abstract.

9. Discussion, first sentence: Is this the first study of FK practitioners in the USA
or worldwide?

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.