Reviewer's report

Title: Time-lapse analysis of potential cellular responsiveness to Johrei, a Japanese healing technique

Version: 2 Date: 9 September 2004

Reviewer: John Gruzelier

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This is a publishable, clearly written, well executed study. My reservations largely concern its conclusions and awareness of the Johrei literature.

The conclusions are somewhat swingeing on the basis of the study reported. Further, 4 hours of continuous Johrei is a very unusual schedule vis a vis the practice of Johrei. This should be commented on. Why was it selected.

The report on the germanation of gamma-irradiated seeds, which was successful, should be acknowledged: Gomes et al Journal of Conscientiology, 2001, 3, 169-192. Th Johrei Society can provide this.

The main studies to date of Laidlaw and Naito are glanced at in passing in the Introduction, but are not referred to in the conclusions, where they are germane to the rather sweeping conclusions. The controlled studies of Naito and Laidlaw do not allow the positive effects of Johrei to be explained away as a result of expectancy, placebo effects and other nonspecific factors. Notably the differential effects of Johrei on NKC, where not one student showed the expected compromise with exam stress, whereas those trained in self -hypnosis and those trained in relaxation did, are especially relevant.