Reviewer's report

Title: A Concept for Trial Institutions focussing on Randomised Controlled Trials in Surgery

Version: 2 Date: 5 November 2007

Reviewer: Jeffrey Barkun

Reviewer's report:

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

General comments:
- Interesting article proposing a particular model to facilitate RCTs in daily surgical clinical practice.
- There are a number of spelling mistakes, which I will not address
- How does the SDGC prioritize the study ideas which it will commit to?
- Under “effects of change”, subheadings reflecting multi-center vs single center RCTs (ie CTC and KSC) may help make the 2 pages simpler to follow and relate to the previous section (Gathering information and strategies for change)
- Details as to actual yearly budgets would be interesting, for eg as a percentage of yearly national grants average operating budget

Specific comments:
- P3: “only little emphasis on trial institutions”- this is not clear. Do you mean, on developing a structure, concentrating all trials in a single center, …
- P4: reference 5 obviously only deals with cancer research

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being
published

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