Reviewer's report

Title: "Brace technology" thematic series - The Sforzesco and Sibilla braces, and the SPoRT (Symmetric, Patient oriented, Rigid, Three-dimensional, active) concept

Version: 2 Date: 27 January 2011

Reviewer: Luke Stikeleather

Reviewer's report:

Reviewers' Notes:

Gentlemen, we enjoyed reading your manuscript; it is quite evident that much work went into the background and assembly of this enormous effort. Your passion for this topic and the families affected by it is very palpable. The ambition required to imagine a better system, develop the finer points of it, and publish it in this way is admirable. This manuscript is thoughtful, intelligently worded, and could be beneficial to members of the healthcare community interested in understanding and improving scoliosis care.

We thought our recommendations and edits would be easier for you to read and implement, if acceptable, in a “word document format”. Our suggestions applied in print here are intended to clarify the author’s message or intended meaning. In some cases, passages have been edited to reflect the way English is spoken in everyday terms or to specify technical content. Occasionally, word choice, word order, or topic organization has been targeted for improved readability.

Because this project is extremely wide and covers numerous subcategories related to the efforts of the authors we stopped detailed editing until some revisions are considered. We question if it is your intent to publish this as an article by itself? If so, the length and breadth make it too cumbersome, lengthy, and disparate for most scholarly publications.

Major Compulsory Revisions:

We suggest compiling the information differently, perhaps into two or three shorter, separate articles. As it stands, it reads like a course manual on the history, rationales, methods, mechanics, and applications of the SPoRT bracing systems and could be published as a booklet. Another suggestion may be to expand and organize the information and publish it as an instructional book to use in training others in this approach. The literature search alone is an excellent reference.

Please see the attached word doc with specific suggestions for your consideration.

Once again, thank you for creating this magnum opus of your cumulative bracing efforts over the past few years. It is fascinating and inspirational to us. We look
forward to assisting you as best we can in moving forward with this and other projects.

Sincerely,

Luke Stikeleather, Co and The Orthotic Solutions Manuscript Review Team

**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.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.