Reviewer's report

Title: Estimation of stature from foot and its segments in a sub-adult female population of North India

Version: 1 Date: 19 August 2011

Reviewer: Sarah Reel

Reviewer's report:

Reviewer’s general comments:
The authors of this study derive regression models for the estimation of adolescent female stature from foot dimensions in a North Indian population. They discuss methods employed that acknowledge measurement error of the anthropometric techniques involved. This is an important study which will enhance research in both the fields of forensic podiatry and forensic anthropology.

• Major Compulsory Revisions
  None

• Minor Essential Revisions
  2.1 There is inconsistency of hyphenation in the word sub-adult throughout document, e.g. the title uses the word ‘sub-adult’, yet in the first paragraph of the abstract uses ‘sub adult’. (See also Comment 3.3 below)
  2.2 Change ‘negligible’ to the adverb ‘negligibly’, or rearrange sentence to read; ‘Our findings indicate that the technical error demonstrates a negligible contribution to the measurements…’ (Last sentence of Technical/Measurement Error section, page 8)
  2.3 Change the word ‘lesser’ to ‘less’. (Last sentence, first paragraph, page 11)
  2.4 Remove comma after ‘Since’ in ‘Since, bilateral asymmetry exists in foot breadth measurements,’ (Second paragraph, page 11)
  2.5 Reviewer was unable to read titles of Tables 1, 2 and 5 as they appeared too high up on the screen in the PDF version. Also these titles did not print and may need to be lowered in the final draft.
  2.6 Table 7, third column from left-hand side is titled S.E. This should read S.E.E. as it refers to the standard error of estimate, rather than the standard error.
  2.7 The text below Table 9 should be lowered as it appears too high up and is obscured slightly by the table’s border.

• Discretionary Revisions
  3.1 The definition of forensic podiatry (first sentence, Background section, page 4) should be supported using an appropriate reference (e.g. Vernon D.W., McCourt F.J., “Forensic podiatry – a review and definition”, British Journal of Podiatry, Vol. 2, No. 2, May 1999, p. 45 – 48).
3.2 The author uses the term ‘systemic studies’ (top of page 12). Should this read ‘systematic studies’?

3.3 The term ‘adolescents’ is used on page 12 in the discussion section, which is perhaps a more familiar term in the West and it may be more suitable as a keyword rather than ‘sub-adult’.

**Level of interest:** An article of outstanding merit and interest 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