**June 9, 2024**

Dear Dr. Stanislav N. Gorb and Biomimetics Editorial Board,

Our team thanks you for the opportunity to revise our manuscript, and we appreciate the guidance you have given us. I am eager to re-submit this manuscript for review, and am excited to discuss the revisions that we have made.

 We corrected the format of the reference citations and added brackets in line with IEEE standards. Regarding adding further references, we now have a total of 41 references, with 35 references from papers published in the last five years. To do this, we reorganized our citation list. We have highlighted all the revised text. We included multiple specialties, such as Craniofacial Surgery, Plastic Surgery, and Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, to comprehensively encompass all fields involved in the surgical treatment of imbalances in the oral mucosa. Additionally, we opted to utilize and include feedback from experts in the field, with their evaluations serving as high-fidelity validation for these models. As our team’s goal is to develop a realistic model, we believe that this expert feedback is crucial in demonstrating the accuracy and effectiveness of our model.

 We added more information on the reasons why we conducted particular methods in the methods sections. Much of our work with silicone and the parameters that we use when constructing models comes from previous papers we have published and cited. Also, in regards to the reviewers desire for further quantitative data, due to the fact that surgical practice and surgical methods vary depending on the surgeon and region, we believe that the subjective, qualitative approach to data collection yields more applicability in practice than a standardized interaction paradigm. In our results and discussion, we do our best to ensure that we are exclusively comparing our surrogates to others in the view of expert surgeons, not that we are claiming that we have mechanically replicated the human oral mucosa.

We thank you for this opportunity. Please let us know if there is anything else we can do.

Krishna Sai Koka, BSE

Co-Author, Research Staff

Zopf Lab – Department of Biomedical Engineering

University of Michigan

**April 20, 2024**

Dear Dr. Stanislav N. Gorb and Biomimetics Editorial Board,

Our team is enthusiastic to submit the manuscript entitled “Evaluation of Silicone Surrogates for Oral Mucosa Simulation in Craniofacial Surgical Training” to be considered for publication as an original work in Biomimetics.

We believe that this manufacturing and expert surgeon validation of simulated tissue surrogates as presented in this manuscript will be of extremely high interest to broad readership within your journal audience. Our thoughtful, multi-institutional, collaborative efforts are advancing surgical simulation in Craniofacial training. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first study in the literature to evaluate the simulation of oral mucosa with silicone; thus, we believe that this is a timely and relevant article for your readers as 1) it meaningfully builds upon our groups experience in 3D Printing in medicine and surgical simulation and 2) the growing field of surgical simulation has highlighted the need for optimization of tissue simulation.

We confirm that neither the manuscript nor any parts of its content are currently under consideration or published in another journal. All authors have approved the manuscript and agree with its submission to Biomimetics.

We hope you find our manuscript suitable for of interest and look forward to working with you towards expedient publication.

Sincerely,

David A. Zopf MD, MS

Associate Professor

Pediatric Division, Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery

Affiliate Professor, Biomedical Engineering

3D Printing Scaffold Tissue Engineering Lead

University of Michigan