

Dear Colleague,

I wish to submit for consideration our revised manuscript entitled "Fabrication and implantation of miniature dual-element strain gages for measuring *in vivo* gastrointestinal contractions in rodents." for review and publication in *Journal of Visualized Experiments*. Our revisions of concerns raised by the peer reviewers are documented in our tracked changes version of the manuscript and our point by point response to the comments (separate file, our text is in red).

As we stated previously, this work seeks to take advantage of the unique visual format of JOVE to demonstrate some of the finer details of fabricating strain gages for smooth muscle contractions. As we note in the text, this design (based upon the original work of the late Dr. Paul Bass) is no longer available. RB Electronics was a small business enterprise that would fabricate these strain gages based upon Dr. Bass’ design, but ceased production in 2010. I feel that it is important to document this fabrication process for posterity. Some of the protocol details that I expect to feature during videotaping center on the little tricks that I had to learn by trial and error. I would have benefited greatly by knowing these details and certainly not wasted time, effort and materials in the process.

At the early stage of writing this manuscript I tried to contact Dr. Bass to invite him to collaborate. Sadly, I learned that he had passed away some weeks prior to my phone call. As a result of these events, I believe that there are no intellectual or commercial conflicts that would preclude describing the expanded protocol for fabrication in JOVE.

Emily Swartz, Margaret McLean and myself have not submitted this manuscript elsewhere, and have no conflicts of interest associated with publication of this protocol.

We appreciate the efforts of you and your staff in the review process and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Gregory M. Holmes, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Neural and Behavioral Sciences



–––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––

**Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center • Penn State College of Medicine**

Department of Neural and Behavioral Sciences, Mail Code H109, 500 University Drive, P.O. Box 850, Hershey, PA 17033-0850

Tel: 717-531-8650• Fax: 717-531-5184 • www.pennstatehershey.org/

An Equal Opportunity University