

Subject: Reviewer Invitation for Acta Biomaterialia
From: "William Wagner" <actabio.editor@upmc.edu>
Date: 8/12/2015 12:53 p.m.
To: flynn.cormac@gmail.com

Dear Dr. Cormac Flynn,

The manuscript entitled "Strain-softening during uniaxial stretching of human skin: is it permanent damage or recoverable deformation?" by Dr. Krishnaswamy Ravi-Chandar, Nisha Kumaraswamy; Hamed Khatam; Gregory P Reece; Michelle C Fingeret; Mia K Markey; has recently been submitted to Acta Biomaterialia. I would be very grateful if you would express your opinion on its suitability for publication by completing the assessment form and adding any supplementary comments for the author(s).

The Abstract follows:

Skin is a complex material covering the entire surface of the human body. Studying the mechanical properties of skin to provide a constitutive model is of great importance to many applications such as plastic or cosmetic surgery and for other treatment or understanding of skin based diseases like decubitus ulcers. This paper investigates controlled experimental results from uniaxial tests performed on skin specimens obtained from breast mastectomy. The experimental results reveal that Fung's exponential model proves to be a very good fit to the obtained test data. This study is a significant step towards providing a conclusion on the long-debated observed strain softening effect in skin. We conclude from our test results of freshly harvested specimens that the skin softening due to repetitive testing is completely passively recoverable provided enough time is given for recovery after testing. Another important conclusion is that scarred and irradiated skin reveal a significantly stiffer response in comparison to that of normal skin response, but still of the exponential type.

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I appreciate the significant effort involved in refereeing a manuscript, and recognize that this request imposes on an already busy schedule. However, I hope you will choose to help. If you are unable to review this paper, I would be grateful if you would send me a suggestion for another referee.

Thank you very much for your assistance. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

William R. Wagner, Ph.D.
Editor-in-Chief
Acta Biomaterialia

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