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Dear Reviewer,

Thank you for your review and comments on “**Assessing the Academic Achievement of US Orthopaedic Departments**” for consideration of publication in the *World Journal of Orthopedics*.

In response to your questions, please see as follows.

1. There were no instances in which an orthopaedic department was home to more than one orthopaedic residency program. While some of these programs work together or share partnerships, faculty in this scoring system were considered in regard to his or her primary departmental home. In this way, faculty were not double counted, and the resultant scores reflect only one singular program.
2. The Hirschsprung index (h-index) was used in this study as it is currently the best means of accurately reflecting the scholarly impact of authors' publications. By including this in the scoring algorithm, equal weight was given to both the number of publications and quality of publications.
3. This algorithm does not reflect the quality of a training program, as is emphasized in the article discussion, given that high-quality surgical technique and management of orthopaedic conditions can be both taught and learned regardless of publication status and scholarly contribution.
4. It is an excellent point that many factors of the proposed scoring system apply solely to programs within the United States. Further adaptations to include equivalent or alternative funding sources and internationally representative leadership societies would be required to adequately assess programs outside of the United States. This may be one possibility for further directions of this study.

We thank you for your questions and contributions to this study.

Sincerely,

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