A review of:

"Technical note: TRACK*Flow*, a new versatile microscope system for fission track analysis"
Gerben Van Ranst, Philippe Baert, Ana Clara Fernandes, Johan De Grave

I do not believe that it is appropriate to publish this paper in this journal.

I see three major problems:

1. Apart from a single example comparing some semi-quantitative image analysis derived Dpar measurements with some manual Dpar measurements in a single sample (a very simple procedure which does not require a sophisticated system), there is no information provided indicating how long it takes to do an analysis. Since the authors claim an increase in FT counting productivity and increased laboratory throughput using this system, it is fair expect some evidence to back up the claims. For example, how many standard AFT samples can be counted and measured in a typical working day for example. Without such data, all the authors present are a series of unsubstantiated claims. There is no evidence that the features of the software described in the paper are actually advantages, and they may equally be impediments to efficient fission track determinations when implemented.

2. It is simply not possible to provide a useful review of the software without actually using the system.

3. Unfortunately, the article comes across as an advertisement for Nikon, and I would not be surprised if some of the paragraphs come from a brochure for the microscope system at the centre of the article. I am surprised that since one of the authors is a Nikon employee that they don't acknowledge the possibility of a conflict of interest. It raises a lot of questions, since the authors state that the software will be sold as a part of Nikon packages and will not be available in any other way.

Yours Sincerely

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