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To Whom It May Concern:

I write this letter with full and enthusiastic endorsement of Dr. Svetlana Masgutova. Her work is of monumental and pioneering impact in the understanding and use of motor and sensory reflexes to balance and integrate physiology and psychology.

Historically, her awareness in applying neuro-sensory integration techniques came to the aid of many children in 1989, victims of a terrible train wreck in Russia. Since then, I have learned a great deal about her work, attended her seminars with other health care providers, and witnessed the effect on many children and adults.

Her work is the profound understanding of physiological Reflex Patterns. We all know the sensory stimulation-motor reflex phenomenon. We know it on a rather gross level such as an ankle or knee jerk in response to the percussion hammer. This reflex loop is limited to the peripheral sensory nerve, spinal cord efferent nerve, and reactive skeletal muscles. Dr. Masgutova has taken this phenomenon much more deeply into a variety of domains of the nervous system we do not yet fully understand. She has correlated reflex patterns, some of which we call primitive, with higher levels of function such as speech, behavior, coordinated movement and so forth. Her knowledge and research, more importantly, has generated new understanding of the meaning within reflexes we might just call reactions.

I share two examples to give you easy insight. In the case of autism, toe walking and equinovarus postures of the feet are commonly present and may contribute to the constellation of challenges facing those afflicted. Dr. Masgutova's correlation of this reflex pattern, the Achilles' tendon under extreme tension with the gastrocnemius muscle, is termed the "Tendon Guard Reflex." She has deduced, from thousands of empiric observations, that this reflex is often associated with fear. In the case of encountering a rattlesnake, this reflex is appropriately activated for life-saving reactions. . When this Tendon Guard Reflex response is retained without a personal threat, it becomes abnormal. When the TGR is found to be active in an autistic child it commonly represents latent fear-type reactions. Dr. Masgutova has further developed simple physical exercises which integrate this reflex, creating a more balanced physiology and psychological functioning. When this abnormal reflex is balanced, toe walking improves. Also the autistic individual, perhaps fearful to even simple touch, may commonly become receptive to parents and therapists. These balancing techniques occur rapidly and markedly quicker than years of customary therapy that may not have been successful. Dr. Masgutova, and her trained associates, shares this profound balancing of reflex patterns

with enormous skill and empathy to parents and clients. The positive, sometimes unexpected, outcomes are striking.

Another example is the Babinski Reflex, which we do call a primitive reflex in that it usually disappears in children between the age of one and two years. In adults it is considered most abnormal, signifying severe infection, tumors, or intracranial hemorrhage; all life-threatening conditions. Contrarily, Dr. Masgutova has found this reflex present in other conditions, such as speech and developmental delays. Her correlations of the Babinski Reflex with other states and the ability to balance this abnormal reflex pattern with simple movement integration techniques are truly monumental. Children with developmental delays such as cerebral palsy, and others, can benefit enormously with Dr Masgutova's balancing of reflex patterns.

Dr. Masgutova has helped innumerable individuals and families confronting traumatic brain injury, attention deficit disorders, developmental delays, and many other conditions. I have encouraged her to take on the enormous problems of PTSD, especially in this time of warfare and injured soldiers. Behavioral and cognitive therapies go only so far. These new techniques of balancing deep, core, psycho physiological reflex patterns thereby integrating harmony into the whole physiology, will become phenomenal adjunctive modalities to usual care.

Many Physicians, Physical Therapists, Occupational, Speech Therapists, and Psychologists have attended Dr Masgutova's seminars. Her associates are trained to her exacting standards of professionalism and profound knowledge. Seeing this growth in knowledge and skillful learning, gives me new hope for the healing arts.

I recommend Dr Masgutova, her associates, and the Svetlana Masgutova Educational Institute™ with utmost confidence and trust. Practitioners and lay persons learning this new knowledge will enhance their own lives and those of their patients.

Most sincerely yours,
Paul G Curlee, MD, MPH