



Information Letter – Faculty Participants

September 15, 2009

Project Title: Improving Statistical Literacy Through On-line Learning and Practice: Learning objects for a practical approach for non-mathematicians.

Dear Potential Participant,

You are invited to take part in the **research project** identified above which is being conducted by *Taras Gula*, Professor in the *Mathematics and Statistics Health Information Management (HIM) Program* and principal investigator, *Julie Gaudet*, Professor in the *School of Nursing* at George Brown College, *Dr. Mina Singh*, Assitant Professor in the *School of Nursing* at York University (co-investigators).

This research project examines *the learning from the use of learning Objects in Mathematics and Statistics for non-mathematics*. The purpose of the research project is to develop interactive online modules of learning objects to help students review and/or learn mathematics and statistics content.

Who can participate in the research?

We are seeking faculty who are teaching Mathematics and/or Statistics Courses to participate in this research to provide feedback on both content and form of the Learning Objects.

What choice do I have?

Participation is **entirely voluntary**. If you decide to participate, you may withdraw from the project at any time without giving a reason. The researcher(s) may also withdraw a participant if it is considered in the participant's best interest or it is appropriate to do so for another reason. If this happens, the researcher(s) will explain why and advise you about any follow-up procedures or alternative arrangements as appropriate.

All information collected will be confidential. All information collected will be stored securely with the Principal Investigator and kept for a period of five years. At no time will any individual be identified in any reports resulting from this study.

What will I be asked to do?

- Completing a survey evaluation tool to assess the usability of the Learning Objects,
- Engaging in a follow-up focus group on the usability of the Learning Objects.

What are the risks and benefits of participating?

None

How will the information collected be used?

The results data will be reported to the funding agency, Inukshuk, and presented at scientific meetings and published in an appropriate journal. The results will be shared with interested participants in an aggregated fashion so that no participants are identified.

What do I need to do to participate?

Please read this Information Letter and be sure you understand its contents before you consent to participate. If there is anything you do not understand, or you have any questions, please contact the Principal Investigator (see contact information below).

If you would like to participate, please *sign the consent form, and return it to the Principal Investigator: Taras Gula*. If you are interested in participating in the focus group interview expected to last between 60 to 90 minutes, simply attend the scheduled interview meeting. One of the researchers (or research assistant) will be in contact with you to arrange the focus group at a date and time convenient to you. Your consent will be re-confirmed during the course of the focus group. The focus group will be tape recorded for accuracy and transcribed verbatim. To ensure anonymity, all tapes will be destroyed after transcription and no identifiable information will be included on the transcripts. All data (focus group transcripts) will be kept in a locked cabinet in the principal investigator's office for five after which it will be shredded. Only the researchers will have direct access to the information and only anonymised responses will be used and reported to ensure that you cannot be identified in any way.

Thank you for considering this invitation,

Primary Investigator: Taras Gula, Professor
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Co-Investigators: Julie Gaudet (GBC), 416 415-5000 ext. 3952, & Dr. Mina Singh (York U.), 416-736-2100 ext. 66439.

This project has been approved by the George Brown College Research Ethics Board,
Approval No. 00073

Should you have any concerns about your rights as a participant in this research, or you have a complaint about the manner in which the research is conducted, it may be given to the researcher or, if an independent person is preferred, to the Vice-President, Applied Research, Casa Loma Campus, Room C302.