PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

PROJECT TITLE: Making oral health records more forensically relevant – development and evaluation of online education for the dental professional

SUPERVISORS: Prof Lindsay Richards, Dr Denice Higgins

STUDENT RESEARCHER: Dr Lauren Stow

STUDENT’S DEGREE: Master of Philosophy

Dear Participant,

You are invited to take part in the evaluation of an Interactive Learning Module (ILM) with regard to improving the forensic value of dental records, as developed by the University of Adelaide’s Health Sciences (Dentistry) Faculty.

What is the project about?
In a recent study regarding the awareness of forensic odontology among dentists in Australia, over 80% of respondents believed that their oral health records would be of appropriate value, should they be called upon to assist in a forensic situation. Unfortunately, the results in the study confirmed that a high number of forensically important recording practices are currently inadequately understood by Australian dentists. In addition, a review of a randomised selection of Australian-produced dental records housed at the Forensic Odontology Unit of SA demonstrated that many of the records lacked detail from a forensic-specialist perspective, as well as sub-optimal recording related to the relevant forensic guidelines from the Dental Board of Australia.

This current project aims to design, develop, implement and test an online training package for educating dental health professionals on improving the detail, accuracy, legibility, accessibility and retention of dental records, with specific reference to forensic odontology.

In this way, this project hopes to eliminate the disparity between perceived and real forensic value of dental records.

Who is undertaking the project?
This project is being conducted by Dr Lauren Stow. This research will form the basis for the degree of Master of Philosophy at the University of Adelaide under the supervision of Prof Lindsay Richards and Dr Denice Higgins.

A $950 grant from The Australian Society of Forensic Odontology (AuSFO) has been awarded for partial financial assistance with this project. Additional funding may be received from the Forensic Odontology Unit (FOU) of South Australia’s research funds, as required.

Why am I being invited to participate?
You are invited to participate in your capacity as a member of ADOHTA.
What will I be asked to do?
The Interactive Learning Module (ILM) has been developed to aid continuing education into best practice oral health recording for forensic purposes. The series, designed to take around 60 minutes to complete, covers the following topics that have been identified as requiring improvement in application of knowledge:
- Introduction
- Detail
- Accuracy
- Legibility
- Accessibility
- Retention

To determine the effectiveness of this initiative, we would additionally ask you to complete two online surveys (pre- and post-course) via surveymonkey. You will be asked to create a 4-digit ‘unique identifier code’ (by answering 4 simple questions) that will allow your pre-and post-course survey responses to be matched for the purposes of the research project. The survey responses will remain entirely anonymous.

Before you commence the ILM, you will be asked to complete a short online pre-course survey. From drop-down boxes, you will be asked to indicate your occupation, level (years) of experience in your occupation, as well as where you completed your highest level of training for your current occupation. You will then be asked to rate your perceived awareness, knowledge, confidence, skills and motivation to record forensically valuable information in oral health records. This survey is expected to take 2 minutes.

The second (post-course) survey will be done online after you have completed learning via the ILM. The post-course survey includes perception questions as per the pre-course survey, with additional queries regarding your opinions and preferences of the content and format of the Interactive Learning Module (ILM). The post-course survey is expected to take 5 minutes, dependent on feedback provided.

Completion and return of these surveys indicates your consent to being involved in the project.

The analysis and interpretation of these data will focus on improving the ILM, particularly with regard to enhancing the relevance and educational experience for future users.

Are there any risks associated with participating in this project?
There are no foreseeable risks in being involved with this project. At no point will personal details be collected. Only collective results from the study will be reported.

What are the benefits of the research project?
As a gap in both knowledge and application of knowledge has been identified with relation to recording forensically relevant dental features of patients, this project hopes to increase the amount of available Continuing Professional Development (CPD) resources in the dental community. In this way, it hopes to eliminate the disparity between perceived and real forensic value of dental records being produced in Australia.

Can I withdraw from the project?
Participation in this project is completely voluntary. If you agree to participate, you can withdraw from the study at any time.

Who do I contact if I have questions about the project?
If you require any more details about the project before, during or after the educational course or evaluation, have any problems arising from your involvement in this project or if you simply require further details about any of aspects, please contact:
What if I have a complaint or any concerns?
The study has been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee at the University of Adelaide (approval number H-2015-086). Should you have any queries or complaints regarding the ethical conduct of this study, please consult the Independent Complaint Procedure attachment accompanying this Information Sheet for advice. If you are not satisfied that your concerns have been resolved, please contact the HREC Secretariat on (08) 83136028 or via email at hrec@adelaide.edu.au.

Yours sincerely,
Dr Lauren Stow
The University of Adelaide Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC)

This document is for people who are participants in a research project.

CONTACTS FOR INFORMATION ON PROJECT AND INDEPENDENT COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

The following study has been reviewed and approved by the University of Adelaide Human Research Ethics Committee:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Title:</th>
<th>Making oral health records more forensically relevant – development and evaluation of online education for the dental professional</th>
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<td>Approval Number:</td>
<td>H – 2015-086</td>
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The Human Research Ethics Committee monitors all the research projects which it has approved. The committee considers it important that people participating in approved projects have an independent and confidential reporting mechanism which they can use if they have any worries or complaints about that research.

This research project will be conducted according to the NHMRC National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (see [http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/publications/synopses/e72syn.htm](http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/publications/synopses/e72syn.htm))

1. If you have questions or problems associated with the practical aspects of your participation in the project, or wish to raise a concern or complaint about the project, then you should consult the project co-ordinator:

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<tr>
<th>Name:</th>
<th>Dr Denice Higgins, Director, Forensic Odontology Unit of South Australia</th>
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<tr>
<td>Phone:</td>
<td>+61 8 83135431</td>
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<tr>
<th>Name:</th>
<th>Dr Lauren Stow, principal researcher</th>
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<tr>
<td>Phone:</td>
<td>+61 8 83131294</td>
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2. If you wish to discuss with an independent person matters related to:
   - making a complaint, or
   - raising concerns on the conduct of the project, or
   - the University policy on research involving human participants, or
   - your rights as a participant,

contact the Human Research Ethics Committee’s Secretariat on phone (08) 8313 6028 or by email to hrec@adelaide.edu.au