

Appendix F - Letters of Information for Early Career Researchers (Phase 1 – Survey)



Université d'Ottawa / University of Ottawa

1st Emailing – Initial Request

Barriers and facilitators facing early career researchers in medicine and health sciences when conducting systematic and scoping reviews: A mixed methods study

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You are invited to take part in the above-mentioned two-phase research study conducted by Lindsey Sikora, PhD candidate from the University of Ottawa under the supervision of Professor Katherine Moreau.

The purpose of the study is to better understand the perceived challenges and barriers faced by early career researchers (ECRs) and librarians when conducting systematic reviews (SRs) and scoping reviews (ScRs) in health sciences and medicine. This phase of research will explore ECRs' and librarians' opinions, attitudes and perceptions experienced when performing these review methodologies. As well, this survey will help determine how librarians can better support ECRs when conducting SRs and ScRs.

For Phase 1 of the study, you are invited to complete the attached survey. The survey contains a range of questions about your experience when conducting SRs and ScRs. In particular, it asks about **your** perceptions of and experiences with challenges and barriers you have encountered when completing SRs and ScRs as an ECR. It also contains some demographic questions. The survey will take approximately **15 minutes** to complete. We ask that you complete the survey online using the following link <https://www.surveymonkey.ca/r/ECRsenglish> by **Friday, April 30th, 2021**. By selecting **"I agree"** on the survey platform, you are consenting to participate in Phase 1 of this study.

There is little risk associated with your involvement in Phase 1 of the study. Some of the items and questions on the survey may make you feel uncomfortable because they ask about your perceptions of and experiences with challenges and barriers you have encountered when

completing SRs and ScRs as an ECR. You do not have to respond to any items or answer questions that make you feel uncomfortable.

You may or may not benefit directly from Phase 1 of the study. The study will generate awareness and reflection about the challenges and barriers you have encountered when completing SRs and ScRs as an ECR. The study will also potentially improve SRs and ScRs methodologies by building on the very limited body of empirical research on challenges and barriers experienced by ECRs when conducting SRs and ScRs, so that they can make informed decisions about the methods and considerations required when completing these types of reviews. To thank you for your participation in the study, you will receive a summary of the findings and if you'd like to enter an email at the end of the survey, you will be given the option to enter your name in a draw to win one of four Starbucks gift cards valued at \$25. The draw is open to all research participants who enter their name in the draw, regardless of whether they decide to withdraw from further participating in the research project.

Upon completion of the study, a name will be randomly selected amongst those who have entered and the person whose name is drawn will be informed by email. To win the prize, the person must correctly answer a skill testing question. If the person cannot be reached within 14 days from the date of the draw, the prize will be awarded to the second name that is randomly selected and so on until the prize has been awarded. The odds of winning a prize will depend on the number of eligible entries retrieved. The prize must be accepted as awarded or forfeited and cannot be redeemed for cash.

Your name and email address that you provide when you enter the draw is collected for the purposes of contacting you if your name is selected in the draw. Your name and the contact information you have provided will be kept confidential and then destroyed once the prizes have been awarded.

We reserve the right to cancel the draw or cancel the awarding of the prize if the integrity of the draw or the research or the confidentiality of participants is compromised. The draw is governed by the applicable laws of Canada.

The questionnaire survey is designed so that your identity will remain strictly confidential and anonymous. Your responses to the survey will only be used for describing the challenges and barriers encountered by ECRs when conducting SRs and/or ScRs.

If you are interested in participating in Phase 2 of this project, the survey will ask you to provide your name and email address. This information will not be combined with your survey responses. It will only be used for recruitment purposes if you are interested in participating in Phase 2. Your survey responses will be combined with other responses so that you cannot be identified in published reports or presentations. Also, any written responses that could potentially reveal your identity (e.g., name, town, or region) will be blacked out from the survey and not included in the database.

Completed surveys will be stored on a password-protected computer in a University of Ottawa research office. Only the members of the above-mentioned research team will have access to the

questionnaire surveys. Data will be conserved for five years after the publication of research findings. After this time, data will be shredded and appropriately discarded.

The completion of this survey is **voluntary**. Once the survey is submitted, participants will be unable to withdraw their data from the study as the researchers will be unable to retrace individual datasets.

If you have any questions about the study please contact Lindsey Sikora or Katherine Moreau, at the coordinates below. If you have any questions regarding the ethical conduct of this study, you may contact the Protocol Officer for Ethics in Research, University of Ottawa at:

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(613) 562-5382
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Sincerely,

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