

INFORMED CONSENT FORM

EO Internet Forum Health Survey

This consent form is a key part of the process of informed consent. It should give you the basic idea of what the data that you submit on this EO internet survey may be used for by EO International and a limited number of researchers, including Lesley Hayes, PhD Student, University of Calgary. If you would like more detail about something mentioned here, or information not included here, please ask us. Please take the time to read this form carefully and to understand any accompanying information.

The purpose of the research is to increase our understanding of high performance forum groups. EO is interested in supporting and encouraging forums to reach their fullest potential and to offer the best possible value to their participants. With that goal in mind, the data collected in this survey will be shared, on an anonymous basis with your forum moderator (or whomever initiated the survey for your individual forum) and in aggregate, also anonymously, with EO staff people, or an EO member conducting PhD research on Forums, Lesley Hayes in Calgary. By looking at how you rate your forum experience as well as the information you provide on the specific behaviors, habits and processes your experience in your forum group, we hope to continue to improve our understanding of the processes and habits that create value in EO forums, and improve the materials, training and knowledge of EO forum groups for the benefit of all EO forum members.

Participation in this study is voluntary and if you volunteer to participate, you may withdraw at any time. This survey is open for all EO forum members around the globe to participate in, as they wish to. If participating, you may refuse to answer any question or refuse to participate in any other way without necessarily withdrawing completely. Your time commitment should be less than 10 minutes to complete the online survey, however many forum groups gain significant benefit from discussion of their individual forum results. In addition, a benchmark of data which has been gathered from a small number of forums who have been identified as being 'high performance' is also provided for you to compare your forum against. Participation in this study is not expected to result in any physical, psychological, social, employment, financial, or legal risks for you.

Confidentiality will be strictly maintained for all information collected through this survey. The identities of individual participants will not be transferred from the electronic format. Only coded identity tags would be used for electronic analysis. Data by region or city may be compiled and identified, and individual forum groups may be contacted for further, optional, follow up if required. You are also welcome to collect data on a frequent basis and compare it against your individual forum groups past performance. Computer files will be password protected. No published or distributed materials will be created that will in any way identify an individual or an individual forum group without them being contacted and express written permission obtained.

Reports to participants will occur electronically. Each forum will be forwarded a compiled version of the data they provided. At your request a copy of any research report will be forwarded to you prior to its completion so that you may check its accuracy, and to ensure that

confidentiality has been maintained to your satisfaction. You may receive a copy of the final research report at your request.

Your completion of this EO online Forum Health Survey, indicates that you have understood to your satisfaction the information regarding participation in the research project and agree to participate as a subject. In no way does this waive your legal rights nor release the investigators, sponsors, or involved institutions from their legal and professional responsibilities. You are free to withdraw from the study at any time. Your continued participation should be as informed as your initial consent, so you should feel free to ask for clarification or new information throughout your participation. If you have any further questions concerning matters related to this research, please contact:

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