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Outcome Reporting Bias in Primary Literature (ORBIP): from Health-Regulator to Front-Line Clinician

As physicians, pharmacists and nurses of Fraser Health, you have been invited to participate in an online survey to be entered online and administered by the pharmacy department. Your participation is entirely voluntary, so it is up to you to decide whether or not to take part in this study.

My name is Nichoe Huan and I am a pharmacy resident from the Fraser Health Authority of Vancouver, British Columbia. I am conducting research alongside Dr. Aaron Tejani and Greg Egan regarding outcome reporting bias.

As you may be aware, bias in literature is becoming an increasingly important issue which has various implications on evidence based medicine. There are a large number of different types of bias and individual practitioners sometimes have problems identifying and interpreting results because of these. Therefore, a portion of this research is directed towards surveying practicing health professionals for their understanding of bias and how they deal with its presence in literature. The bias this research is focused on is outcome reporting bias.

Your completion of this survey will help provide perspective on current health practitioners' understanding and interpretation of outcome reporting bias in medical literature and to identify if there is a potential need for increasing awareness of the issue.

The survey should only take roughly 10-15 minutes and to thank you for your participation, you have the option to include your name and e-mail on the survey to be eligible for a draw for two \$25 gift cards. The survey will remain open for completion until December 31, 2012.

The Fraser Health [Outcome Reporting Bias in Primary Literature (ORBIP): from Health-Regulator to Front-Line Clinician Survey] - Consent for Collection, Use and Storage of Participant Information

Your personal information collected by Fraser Health is subject to protections under the BC *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FIPPA). To participate in this initiative as a survey respondent, you are being asked to consent to enter the following information for use by Fraser Health:

- *Your name and e-mail address only if you choose to be entered into a draw for two \$25 gift cards. The entering of this personal information is OPTIONAL and will only be used to contact and notify the winners of the prizes. All personal identifiers will be erased from the data set once the data is ready for analysis. This information will be accessible by the investigators and research assistant of this study.*
- *Personal views/opinions as expressed in the survey in the open ended questions. These views and opinions are considered personal information.*

Access to the entered information is limited to Fraser Health [Pharmacy] employee Nichoe Huan, Dr. Aaron Tejani, Greg Egan and research assistant, Stefan Chua.

Completed surveys will be stored online on the Fluid Surveys platform and other electronic copies will be stored in a password protected file or device. Any paper copies or data will be stored in a locked cabinet without public access in a Surrey Memorial Hospital office, basement room #002 in the Shirley Dean Pavillion. Access to the data from the survey and subsequent reports will only be available to the investigators (Nichoe Huan, Dr. Aaron Tejani and Greg Egan) and research assistant (Stefan Chua). The information reviewed may also contain personal information, such as opinions and views as noted above. At no point in time will your information be disclosed for purposes other than anonymous and categorized data for inclusion in publication. This data will be kept for five years as per ethics requirements. The results of this survey will be used to gain perspective on current health practitioners' understanding and interpretation of outcome reporting bias in medical literature and to identify a potential need for increasing awareness of the issue.

As a participant in this survey, the information you choose to provide will be stored by Fluid Surveys, a service provider located in Canada. When the data is ready for analysis, the personal information will be deleted from all surveys and prizes will be awarded. A unique survey code will be assigned for tracking purposes. The surveys will not be able to be traced back to the individuals after this point and *an electronic copy of the results will be retained (free of personal identifiers) for reference as necessary related to publication.*

Participation in the Outcome Reporting Bias in Primary Literature survey is voluntary. There will be no consequences to you if you choose not to participate. You may withdraw from this survey at any time by submitting a request to Lawrence.huan@fraserhealth.ca and in doing so, your personal information and responses will be deleted.

Questions about your information and this survey initiative may be directed to the Survey Administrator: Nichoe Huan – Email: Lawrence.huan@fraserhealth.ca; Phone Number: (778)861-7597.

If you have any concerns or complaints about your rights as a research subject and/or your experiences while participating in this study, contact either Dr. Anton Grunfeld or Dr. Allan Belzberg, REB co-Chairs by calling (604)587-4681. You may discuss these rights with one of the co-chairmen of the Fraser Health REB.

Consent:

I have read and understand the Consent for Collection, Storage and Use of Participant Information.

I voluntarily consent to Fraser Health collecting, using and disclosing the information I provide as a participant in this survey.

1. **I consent** (proceed to survey: <http://fluidsurveys.com/surveys/nichoe/outcome-reporting-bias/> - by clicking on this link to this survey, you are expressing your voluntary consent to all the aforementioned statements)
2. **I do not consent** (close document, no notification needed)