

CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN RESEARCH

Project Title:

Publication of aggregate academic data collected as part of the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Program at the Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph

Investigators:

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2. Dr. Peter Conlon, Associate Dean Students, Office of the Dean, Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph
3. Dale Lackeyram, Science Learning and Curriculum Specialist, Office of the Dean, Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph

Purpose of the Study:

The DVM program at the Ontario Veterinary College (OVC) is a fully accredited program that provides the graduating OVC student with the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values required to be a proficient veterinarian. As part of our accreditation process we are required to evaluate how well the DVM Program is achieving all the learning objectives that comprise the program. This is accomplished by using assessment tools (such as, grades, surveys, interviews, and other feedback) which you are required to complete as part of the DVM program.

The aim of this study is to publish the aggregate findings gathered from the feedback and assessment data generated over a nine (9) year period (4 years of the DVM program and 5 years post graduation from OVC).

Procedures:

There are no new or unique procedures associated with this project. All of the procedures used in this project are part of the regular required activities conducted in the DVM Program.

As part of our ongoing internal quality assurance process in the DVM Program we are required to collect and evaluate information from the following items: surveys of your experiences at admission and during your program of study; course grades and performance; phase evaluations, interviews and course evaluations. Also, after graduating from the DVM program we collect and evaluate information about your overall experience in the veterinary profession up to 5 (five) years after graduating, along with feedback from the employers who hire you.

If you agree to participate in this study you will be giving us permission to use this information for the purposes of publishing aggregate information in the veterinary medical literature. Your participation is voluntary and requires that you sign the consent form if you agree to participate in this study. You can choose to withdraw from this study at any time. By choosing to withdraw from this study means that your data will not be included in the aggregate data used for publication.



Reporting Data:

All data analyzed and presented in this research will be done in aggregate, which means that a participating or non-participating individual will never be identified. All data will be treated confidentially and only the Administrative Assistant to the Associate Deans will know who is participating in the study. All results analyzed by the researchers will be de-identified.

Results of this study will be reported in the veterinary literature, and will also be reported back to participants and members of the college via discussions, presentations, and group meetings as appropriate.

Potential Risks and Discomforts:

Your decision to participate, or not, in this research will not affect your performance or progression in the DVM Program. Your instructors and evaluators will not know if you have chosen to participate in this research and will not have access to any identifying data. Only the Administrative Assistant to the Associate Deans will know of your choice to participate in this study. All data from this study will be stored on a secure server and will be treated confidentially.

Potential Benefits to Participants and/or Society:

Participation in this study provides the veterinary college community salient feedback about the DVM program. The reporting of findings to the OVC community and the University community will allow for active and engaged discussions about the strengths and improvements that can be made to the DVM program.

The publication and communication of the teaching approaches, learning outcomes and the achievement of the curriculum competencies of the DVM program will contribute to a significant gap in the veterinary education literature. The benefits of publicizing our findings include communicating best practices and challenges to students, instructors and administrators of veterinary medicine programs nationally and internationally.

This study also incorporates the perspectives of the profession (employers of DVM graduates), and allows an opportunity to integrate and communicate the professional and societal perspectives about veterinary medicine into our evaluation of the DVM program.

Payment for Participation:

There is no payment for participating.

Confidentiality:

Every effort will be made to ensure confidentiality of information that is part of this study. You will be assigned an Identification Code. This code will be removed from the data that is analyzed i.e. de-identified. All the data for this study will be stored on a secure server at OVC Information Technology Services (ITS). Findings will be presented in an aggregated format and will not identify any participating individual. All paper records obtained will be kept locked in a designated cabinet and secured in an office in the OVC Dean's Office area. Individuals involved in instructing or assessing you will not have access to any identifiable data from this study, nor will they be aware of whether or not you chose to participate.

Participation and Withdrawal:

If you volunteer to be in this study, you may withdraw at any time without consequences of any kind. Choosing to withdraw from this study means that your data will not be used in the aggregate data used for analysis and publication.

Rights of Research Participants:

You may withdraw your consent at any time and discontinue participation without penalty. You are not waiving any legal claims, rights or remedies because of your participation in this research study. This study has been reviewed and received ethics clearance through the University of Guelph Research Ethics Board. If you have questions regarding your rights as a research participant, contact:

Research Ethics Director
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437 University Centre
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Questions:

If you have any questions regarding this research project or this consent form, please contact Dr. Kerry Lissemore at 519-824-4120 ext. 54423 or by email at: klissemo@uoguelph.ca

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Signature of Research Participant:

I have read the information and agree for my information to be included in the aggregate data to be published. My questions have been answered to my satisfaction, and I agree to participate in this study. I have been given a copy of this form.

Name of Participant (please print)

Signature of Participant

Date

Signature of Witness:

Name of Witness (please print)

Signature of Witness

Date