



## Letter of Information

### **Project Title:**

Navigating research quality and independence while retaining equity, diversity, inclusion, and decolonialization in the face of different and changing sociopolitical environments

### **Principal Investigator:**

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### **Co-Investigators:**

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### **Introduction:**

Equity, diversity, inclusion, and decolonialization (EDID) have been operationalized in research policies at the government, funder, and editorial levels to improve the quality of health research. The consideration of EDID in health research questions and designs leads to better science by allowing for more nuanced and complete understanding of health inequities. Changing sociopolitical environments have affected the conduct and publication of research with respect to EDID and have generated concerns on potential threats to science in the research community.

### **Purpose:**

The purpose of this study is to identify the potential risks to equitable and valid science that can occur when academic attitudes and actions are based on the identity of researchers, research participants, relevant people with lived experience, or alignment with an EDID topic.

### **Study Procedures:**

You are being invited to participate in this study because you are a researcher (faculty member or trainee) who conduct military, Veteran, public safety personnel, or families health research.

### **Participation to the Online Survey:**

Participating in this study is voluntary. The survey will take 10-15 minutes to complete. You do not waive any of your legal rights by giving consent for the survey.



**Completion of the survey is indication of your consent to participate.** You may refuse to participate or refuse to answer any questions from the study at any time with no effect to your future.

**Surveys are completely anonymous and therefore we cannot remove submitted surveys from data collection and analysis.** If you want to withdraw from the study, you must do so before you submit the survey or else all responses will be recorded.

If you have concerns, you can contact the Principal Investigator (Dr. Joy MacDermid), or Research Coordinator (Margaret Lomotan).

### **Compensation:**

There is no compensation for participating in this study.

### **Potential benefits of participating in this study:**

There are no direct benefits to you from completing this survey. However, these study results will help us identify potential threats to science and develop best practices in considering EDID in military and public safety personnel research.

### **Potential risk or discomforts associated with this study:**

There are no known physical risks or harms associated with participating in this study.

Some questions may cause increased emotionality or distress, but not more than your typical daily experience. If you feel uncomfortable at any time during the survey, you may stop the survey or chose not to respond to the questions.

While we try our best to keep all personal information secure, potential privacy breech can occur.

### **How many people will be in this study?**

We will enroll about 500 participants.

### **Confidentiality for participation in the survey:**

The overall results of the study will be available to you upon request. Your individual results will be held in strict confidence. No person, other than the study team, will have access to your study related records without your permission. All study data will be stored on a secure password protected server, the Western OneDrive. Study data will be retained according to Western University policy for 7 years, and then will be destroyed according to Western University policy.



Data storage of Western's Qualtrics platform is located on a server in Ireland. Representatives of Western University Health Sciences Research Ethics Board may require access to your study-related records to monitor the conduct of this research.

### **Alternatives to Study Participation:**

Your decision to take part in this study is voluntary. You may choose not to participate or you may withdraw from the study before submitting your survey. No future data will be collected after the date you withdraw from the study. You can receive a copy of this letter of information for your records if you want to. You do not have to waive any of your legal rights by giving consent for the survey.

Study contacts:

If you have questions about taking part in this study, you can directly contact:

Dr. Joy MacDermid, Principal Investigator at: [jmacderm@uwo.ca](mailto:jmacderm@uwo.ca)

Margaret Lomotan, Research Coordinator at: [mlomotan@uwo.ca](mailto:mlomotan@uwo.ca)

If you have any questions about your rights as a research participant or the conduct of this study, you may contact The Office of Human Research Ethics (519) 661-3036, 1-844-720-9816, email: [ethics@uwo.ca](mailto:ethics@uwo.ca). The Research Ethics Board (REB) is a group of people who oversee the ethical conduct of research studies. The Health Sciences REB is not part of the study team. Everything that you discuss will be kept confidential.