Title of research study: *Royal Society of Canada's Working Group on Health Research System Recovery: Strengthening Canada's Health Research System Post-Pandemic*

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You are being asked to consider participating in research study: *Royal Society of Canada's Working Group on Health Research System Recovery: Strengthening Canada's Health Research System Post-Pandemic.* Before agreeing to participate, it is important that you read and understand the following explanation of the proposed study procedures. The following information describes the purpose, procedures, benefits and risks associated with the study. It also describes your right to refuse to participate or withdraw from the study. To decide whether or not you wish to participate in this study, you should understand enough about its risks and benefits to be able to make an informed decision.

Background and Purpose of the Research:
Led by the Royal Society of Canada Working Group on Health Research System Recovery, and in partnership with the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), we are conducting a series of sessions that are part of an international knowledge exchange initiative. Given the impact of the pandemic on health research systems worldwide, the purpose of this initiative is to develop actionable recommendations to strengthen Canada's health research system post-pandemic. We will be holding sessions with leaders from health research funding agencies; health, public health, and social care policy makers; leaders from research institutes; individual researchers; and members of the public to:

- inform recommendations on strategies to strengthen the Canadian health research system and accelerate its post-pandemic recovery in the short, medium and long-term;
- identify opportunities for collaboration on these strategies; and
- outline the potential consequences if these actions are not undertaken.

Discussion will center on four themes from the WHO research system framework[1]:

1. Governance/stewardship including vision, priority setting, ethics and monitoring/evaluation
2. Financing
3. Capacity building encompassing capacity to conduct (including supporting the life cycle of the researcher), receive and use research
4. Producing and using research to improve health and strengthen the public, social and health care systems

Crosscutting each of these themes, discussion will focus on how to build a nimble, equitable, diverse, and inclusive research system.

Eligibility:

You are being asked to participate in this research study because you were identified a member of the public or researcher from Canada.

Procedure:

If you choose to participate, you will be asked to take part in a 3 hour webconference/videoconference (e.g., Zoom) discussion session. Participants can leave their cameras on or off. The session will be conducted by an experienced facilitator in English and French (interpretation services will be provided), recorded, and the results transcribed verbatim and analyzed to develop potential strategies for each of the themes. The session results will be synthesized and collated to create draft recommendations. These recommendations will be sent to all session participants for feedback. You will also be sent a survey after your session asking you to identify what recommendation(s) you will commit to implementing and over what time period.

Prior to confirming your participation, we will send you a brief questionnaire to make sure you are eligible to participate.

Potential Harms (Injury, Discomforts or Inconvenience):

There is minimal risk associated with participation in this study. There is a risk that you may later regret sharing some of your responses in the sessions or surveys; however, you are free to contact the study team and withdraw your data prior to the data analysis stage. Additionally, there is a potential for professional harm if your responses during the sessions are identified by management or your colleagues. As it is possible that you may disclose identifying information, all such identifying information will be changed in the written transcripts and in any written reports or oral presentations so that your privacy will be protected.

[1] Pang T, Sadana R, Hanney S, Bhutta ZA, Hyder AA, Simon J. Knowledge for better health: a conceptual framework and foundation for health research systems. Bull World Health Organ. 2003;81(11):815–20.

Withdrawal:
As mentioned, you are able to withdraw your data prior to the data analysis stage. If you wish to do so, please contact the study team.

Potential Benefits:
You may directly benefit from the opportunity to inform Canada's health research system post-pandemic.

Privacy & Confidentiality:
We will assign a study code to all participants. A master linking log linking participants' identities to study codes will be password-protected and saved separate from study data on the secured hospital administered servers/drives, with access permissions limited to study personnel. Participants will be aware of the identity of all other session members, however, they will be asked to keep all discussion confidential. Any personally identifying information voluntarily given during the sessions or surveys will be removed from the final transcripts, which will be de-identified using the study codes. Once the transcript has been verified for accuracy, the audio recordings will be securely destroyed by a research team member. Any quotations used in written reports or publications will be de-identified, so that participants cannot be identified from the information contained within the quotation.

Only the research team members will have access to the participants' primary (raw) data. All hard copies and backup copies of data will be kept in a locked file cabinet in a locked office. Electronic files will be stored in password-protected files on hospital administered servers/drives, with access permissions limited to study personnel. Any electronic transfers of transcripts will entail the use of encrypted, password-protected files. Electronic copies of the transcripts will be archived in a secure, password protected on-site server for a period of 5 years following the date of publication and according to research data storage policies of St Michael's Hospital, Unity Health Toronto. Only the research team will have access to the files once they have been archived.

Study Contact:
For further information, please e-mail Robyn Beckett at Robyn.Beckett@unityhealth.to.

Research Ethics Board Contact:
If you have any questions regarding your rights as a research participant, you may contact the Chair of Unity Health Toronto Research Ethics Board at (416) 864-6060 ext. 2557 during business hours.

Should you agree to participate, the session facilitator will review this information with you at the beginning of the session. Your consent to participate will be implied by connecting to and staying on the call.

Please keep a copy of this document for your records.