



EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

MWIA Survey of doctors and medical students

Project: Medical Women's International Association Sexual Harassment Study

Chief Investigator

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You are invited to take part in this study. Please read this Explanatory Statement in full before deciding whether or not to participate in this research. If you would like further information regarding any aspect of this project, you are encouraged to contact Professor Jan Coles via the phone number or email address listed above.

What does the research involve?

The aim of the study is to investigate the experience of sexual harassment by women doctors who are members of MWIA. Participants will be asked to complete a short ten minute survey in English. We would prefer you to do the survey online but surveys are also downloadable from the Medical Women International Association Website. At the end of the survey, you will be asked if you are interested in taking part in a Skype interview lasting approximately 45-60 minutes.

If you download the survey you will need to scan it and return it to jan.coles@monash.edu. Once the survey is returned via email, your email correspondence will be deleted to protect your privacy.

We would prefer that you didn't post your survey back to us because of the cost to you and the delay in it getting to Australia. However, if this is your preferred option it should be mailed to Professor Jan Coles, Department of General Practice, Monash University, Building 1/270 Ferntree Gully Rd, Notting Hill, Victoria, Australia 3188.

Why were you chosen for this research?

You were chosen for this research because you are a member of a national women doctor's organization which is affiliated with MWIA.

Source of funding

There is no external source of funding and no conflict of interest for the researchers.

Consenting to participate in the project and withdrawing from the research

Your consent is implied when you submit the survey. You can opt out of the study by not submitting the survey. You can start the survey and come back to it, but if you don't complete it within a week your responses will be discarded. Once the survey is submitted it cannot be withdrawn as we cannot identify who completed the survey.

If you are interested in being interviewed following the survey, you will be asked to provide an email contact.

Providing your email contact makes your survey potentially identifiable, however only Professor Jan Coles at Monash University will have access to this information. The details will be stored separately from the survey results and password protected to protect your privacy.

Possible benefits and risks to participants

The study will provide MWIA with baseline data and assist MWIA to develop resolutions/policy to prevent the sexual harassment of women doctors.

Some participants may become distressed when answering questions about sexual harassment. If you think this is a possibility we suggest you organise support early. Support can include your social networks, friends and family as well as your family doctor, counselling or psychological professional support services. The most likely risk to completing the survey and/or the interview is feeling anxious and/or distressed for a couple of days but if these feelings persist you should seek further support.

Services available if you are adversely affected

- Your National Government's Sexual Harassment advice and support service (if available)
- Specialist counselling services or sexual assault services in your country
- Your primary health care provider
- Your social support networks

Confidentiality

The online survey will not include your name. We will take care by reporting group data, as in some countries with small numbers of doctors, age and specialty may potentially identify you.

If you post or email the survey to Professor Coles, identifying data such as an email or postal address will be discarded or deleted.

Storage of data

The data collected will be password protected and stored on Monash University Computers in Australia.

The data may be shared with others in the research team when analysed but all files will be password protected.

The data set will be stored for five years after the last publication and then destroyed.

Results

The results will be reported and available on the MWIA website at the completion of the project.

Complaints

Should you have any concerns or complaints about the conduct of the project, you are welcome to contact the Executive Officer, Monash University Human Research Ethics (MUHREC):

Executive Officer

Monash University Human Research Ethics Committee (MUHREC)

Room 111, Chancellery Building E,

24 Sports Walk, Clayton Campus

Research Office

Monash University VIC 3800 Tel: +61 3 9905 2052

Email: muhrec@monash.edu Fax: +61 3 9905 3831

Alternatively you may contact the Medical Women's International Association

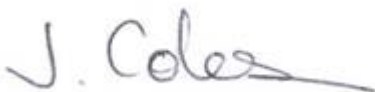
Secretary-General, Shelley Ross M.D.

7555 Morley Drive, Burnaby, B.C.

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Email: secretariat@mwia.net

Thank you,



Professor Jan Coles