



Informed Consent & Information

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Project Title: Self-report colorectal cancer screening rates, beliefs, and attitudes among South Asian immigrants in Canada

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RESEARCH SPONSOR

This study is funded by a Brock University Explore Grant.

INVITATION

You are being invited to participate in a study that involves community-based research.

While making the decision about whether or not you want to be a part of this research study, we urge you to listen and understand what is involved and the possible risks and benefits. Full details about the research study will be discussed with you. Once you understand the study, if you wish to participate, verbal consent will be logged by the research assistant. If necessary, please feel free to discuss it with your friends and family before consenting. We will provide you with written or electronic information depending on your preference. As well, you will be

given the link to the Brock University website, where your family can learn more about the study.

The purpose of this study is to ask South Asian peoples originating from the Indian subcontinent, (For example, India or the diaspora) about their health beliefs, attitudes, and knowledge of colon cancer screening, how they feel about this type of screening, and if they have or have not had screening.

WHAT'S INVOLVED

If you volunteer to participate in this study, you will be asked to answer a series of questions about colon cancer screening by a bilingual South Asian research assistant by telephone or videoconference. They will interview you, ask the questions, and record your responses. The interview time will vary by individual; however, the entire interview will not take approximately 15 - 20 minutes of your time.

HOW MANY PEOPLE WILL BE IN THIS STUDY?

There will be approximately 384 participants enrolled in this study across key South Asian communities in the Greater Toronto Area in Ontario.

POTENTIAL BENEFITS AND RISKS

We cannot promise any personal benefits to you. However, possible benefits include a better understanding of individual beliefs, attitudes and knowledge of colon cancer screening information and practices. Your participation will lead to greater understanding of the situation in South Asian communities to plan interventions that are culturally appropriate. As well, this knowledge will be of benefit to inform public health and cancer care so that they may use to target messaging about colon cancer screening to South Asian communities.

There is low risk with answering the questions for this study. However, questions about the home stool test or other medical procedures used for colon cancer screening may be embarrassing or uncomfortable to discuss in the interview.

CONFIDENTIALITY SURVEY INTERVIEW BY TELEPHONE/VIDEOCONFERENCE

We will do our best to keep the information you share with us confidential by reinforcing the need for respecting everyone's privacy specifically in what is discussed during the survey interview. All information you provide is considered confidential; your name will not be included or, in any other way, associated with the data presented in study reports. Furthermore, because our interest is in the average responses of the entire group of participants, you will not be identified individually in any way in written reports of this research.

A bilingual South Asian Research Assistant will complete the survey in English or Urdu based on your preference. We will be conducting the survey by telephone or Microsoft Teams interview, which is a virtual platform that we use at Brock University that is subject to their

privacy policies ([available here](#)). Your name will not appear in any report resulting from this study. Given that personal identifiers will be used to link the participant code and survey interviews, we will ensure that your information is kept secure, and confidentiality is maintained. Data collected during this study will be stored on the Principal Investigators computer, which is securely stored on Brock University's OneDrive, which is password protected and requires multi-factor authentication. Data will be kept for 3 years after which time the files on the computer and paper copies will be destroyed.

Data will only be accessible by the Principal Investigator and an information technology personnel. Access to the combined data will be restricted to the information technology personnel, and the research team members: Joanne Crawford, Farah Ahmad, Lehana Thabane, and Farhana Madhani.

This study will use the MS Teams (for call in or virtual interviews) to collect data, which is an externally hosted cloud-based service. When information is transmitted over the internet privacy cannot be guaranteed. There is always a risk your responses may be intercepted by a third party (e.g., government agencies, hackers). Further, while the researchers will not collect or use IP addresses or other information which could link your participation to your computer or electronic devices without informing you, there is a small risk with any platform such as this of data that is collected on external servers falling outside the control of the research team. If you are concerned about this, you have the option to participate using telephone.

VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION

Participation in this study is voluntary. If you wish, you may decline to answer any questions or participate in any component of the study. You may decide to withdraw from this study at any time. You may also refuse to answer any questions you do not want to answer and remain in the study. If you have participated in the study and would like your data removed, you will need to notify joanne.crawford@brocku.ca at any time during this study, and all of the data you have provided will be removed from the study. The researchers may withdraw you from this study if it has been established that you should not have been included because you do not meet eligibility criteria, for example, age of eligibility for colon cancer screening. Your name will be included in the draw for one of the \$100.00 gift cards even if you withdraw from the study at anytime.

PUBLICATION OF RESULTS

Results of this study may be published in professional journals and presented at conferences. I expect to have this study completed by February 2023. If you would like a summary of the results, please let me know how you would like it sent to you. My contact information is Joanne Crawford, Email joanne.crawford@brocku.ca

WILL I BE PAID TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS STUDY?

If you agree to take part, we will enter you name into a draw to win one (1) of 10, \$100.00 e-gift cards. The draw for the cards will occur at the end of the study on February 2023.

WILL THERE BE ANY COSTS?

There will not be any costs to you for participating in this study.

CONTACT INFORMATION AND ETHICS CLEARANCE

If you have any questions about this study or require further information, please contact Dr. J. Crawford using the contact information provided above. This study has been reviewed and received clearance through Brock University's Office of Research Ethics [File #20-238], York University Office of Research Ethics [File # 2021-430], and Hamilton Integrated Research Ethics Board [File #14328].

If you have any comments or concerns about your rights as a research participant, please contact the Office of Research Ethics at phone number (905) 688-5550 Ext. 3035, or email reb@brocku.ca ; Sr. Manager & Policy Advisor for the Office of Research Ethics, 5th Floor, Kaneff Tower, York University (telephone 416-736-5914 or e-mail ore@yorku.ca) or McMaster University HiREB, 905-521-2100 or email eREBHelpdesk@HHSC.CA

As the Principal Investigator, I declare no apparent, actual, or potential conflict of interests in conducting this study.

Thank you for your assistance in this research study.



If you are interested in this study, please Email fmehmood@brocku.ca or Call 437-238-3568 or [visit our website](#)