

---

## Letter of Introduction

---

### A Novel Evaluation of Addiction Training (NEAT) Study

Dear all,

As part of the quality assurance process for the Canada Addiction Medicine Training Program, we ask that you provide information regarding your knowledge of addiction medicine by completing the survey below. Your responses will be used to evaluate the impact of the addiction training programme on self-reported knowledge of addiction medicine.

#### WHO IS CONDUCTING THE STUDY?

**Principal Investigator:** Dr. Paxton Bach  
BC Centre on Substance Use, Department of Medicine,  
University of British Columbia  
778-945-7616

**Co-Investigators:** Dr. Jano Klimas  
Dr. Keith Ahamad  
Dr. Seonaid Christine Nolan  
Dr. Ryan McNeil  
Cheyenne Johnson  
Samantha Robinson  
Dr. Jenna Van Draanen  
Lindsey Kendrick-Koch  
Dr. Evan Wood

#### WHO IS FUNDING THIS STUDY?

This study is being funded by the Canada Research Chairs program through a Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Inner City Medicine grant; by the US National Institutes of Health (R25DA037756); and the ELEVATE grant: Irish Research Council International Career Development Fellowship – co-funded by Marie Cure Actions (ELEVATEPD/2014/6)

#### WHY ARE WE DOING THE STUDY?

You are being invited to participate in a research study because you have done the rotation with the Addiction Medicine Consult Team at the St. Paul's Hospital, or the FLEX project, or the online provincial opioid addiction treatment support program.

Despite the heavy burden of disease brought on by drug and alcohol addiction, there remain major challenges in implementing evidence-based prevention and treatment measures for substance use disorders. Addiction health professionals play a key role in researching and evaluating new addiction treatment approaches. This study seeks to better understand the impact of an addiction training programme for addiction health professionals on trainee self-reported knowledge.

The St. Paul's Hospital training programmes in Addiction Medicine have been supported by a donation from Goldcorp Inc. in 2012, by a grant from the National Institute of Drug Abuse and by provincial government. These donors have no input in or control over the data collection, analysis, interpretation and write-up of results, or dissemination activities of the current study. As there is much to be learned about the process, challenges, and impacts of addiction training for health professionals, the purpose of this study is to evaluate the impact of the addiction training program on self-reported knowledge of addiction medicine.

## **YOUR PARTICIPATION IS VOLUNTARY**

Please take time to read this information carefully. Participation in this study is completely voluntary. Your willingness to participate will have no bearing on your future career or training. Completion of this survey signifies your consent to participate.

Should you decide to participate, you will be free to withdraw from the study at any time without providing a reason and without any negative consequences on your future career or training.

## **HOW IS THE STUDY DONE?**

You are being asked to participate in a web-based survey lasting about 15 minutes to collect data regarding your knowledge of addiction medicine by completing the survey below.

We are recruiting health professionals who have participated in drugs education with us. To be eligible to participate in the study you must:

1. Be 19 years of age or older
2. Be a learner in the addiction medicine program
3. Be able to read and understand the English language
4. Be able to complete the online survey
5. Have an email address

If you have received addiction medicine education, or done a rotation with the Addiction Medicine Consult Team, you are being asked to answer questions using a 7-point rating scale, or choosing the correct answer to a multiple choice question. This will be done before the rotation/course, after the rotation/course and annually for up to 5 to 10 years. For example:

*“I have a good knowledge of screening for and treatment of alcohol use disorders.” Or*

*“What are two major differences in the diagnostic criteria for substance use disorders between DSM-IV and DSM-5?”*

If you had a mentor as part of the program, we will ask you to evaluate your mentorship at the end of the program, to complete an annual Alumni survey and also a course satisfaction survey. You will only have to complete the mentor evaluation once. The Mentor evaluation and the Alumni follow up will each take no longer than 5 minutes to complete. If you agree to participate in the study, all information will be kept confidential. This means that all study information will be kept in a secure database that can only be accessed by study staff and investigators. If we don't receive your online survey, the Site Coordinator may follow up with a printed survey.

Your name and other identifying information will not be stored on the same file as your interview responses. With your consent, we are asking to use the information you provide in the survey to improve addiction medicine training in Canada.

If you have completed the online Provincial Opioid Addiction Treatment Support Program, you are asked to complete questions at different stages of the program. The first stage is an Enrolment Survey that includes open response questions. The second stage is an Evaluation of Learning Survey, which asks for feedback for learning occurred during modules. Questions include scale questions, open text response, grid questions and the multiple-choice questions for each module [for clarity, these are listed as stage 5]. The third stage is a Preceptorship Survey, which includes one scale and one-point response question. The fourth stage is an Alumni Survey that includes single point response, scale, and open text response.

## **STUDY RESULTS**

Results of the study will be reported in papers submitted to peer-reviewed journals. Any publications resulting from the study will be made publicly accessible.

## **POTENTIAL RISKS OF THE STUDY**

You may not wish to answer some questions. You may refuse to answer any question that you do not wish to answer, or stop the survey at any time.

## **POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF THE STUDY**

There are no direct benefits to participating in the study. If you choose to participate, your information will help us evaluate the success and limitations of the training programme, and will help inform the value of a training programme for health professionals.

### **HOW WILL YOUR PRIVACY BE MAINTAINED?**

Your confidentiality will be respected. Information that discloses your identity will not be released without your consent unless otherwise required by law. Any identifying information about you (such as your name) will be removed and an anonymous identifier such as a code number will be attached to your data before it is used for the research. All information that is entered into electronic databases will be stored in password-protected databases on firewall-protected computers. The only people who will have access to both your personal identifying information and your research-related information will be the study database personnel. These personnel are required to sign confidentiality agreements as a condition of employment.

### **WILL YOU BE PAID FOR TAKING PART IN THIS STUDY?**

You will not be paid for the time you take to be in this study.

### **WHO CAN YOU CONTACT IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE STUDY?**

If you have any questions or concerns about this evaluation, you can contact Dr. Paxton Bach at the BC Centre on Substance Use (Canada), at 778-945-7616.

### **WHO CAN YOU CONTACT IF YOU HAVE COMPLAINTS OR CONCERNS ABOUT THE STUDY?**

If you have any concerns about your rights as a research subject and/or your experiences while participating in this study, you may contact the Research Subject Information Line in the UBC Office of Research Services at 604-822-8598 or if long distance e-mail [RSIL@ors.ubc.ca](mailto:RSIL@ors.ubc.ca) or call toll free 1-877-822-8598.

Thank you for considering participation in this survey.

Yours sincerely,

Amanda Giesler  
Program Manager, Clinical Education Alignment  
British Columbia Centre on Substance Use (BCCSU)  
on behalf of

Dr Paxton Bach, Program Director and Principal Investigator