

## **CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN RESEARCH**

### **Research Project Title:**

A Longitudinal Study of the Reliability and Validity of the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Admission Process at the Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph

### **Investigators:**

1. Dr. Peter Conlon, Associate Dean Students, Office of the Dean, Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph
2. Dr. Kent Hecker, Assistant Professor, Veterinary Education, Dept of Veterinary Clinical and Diagnostic Sciences, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Calgary
3. Dr. Susan Sabatini, Clinician, Department of Population Medicine and the Veterinary Teaching Hospital, Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph

### **Sponsor:**

Dean's Office, Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph

### **Purpose of the Study:**

The admissions process may be the most important evaluation conducted at the Ontario Veterinary College (OVC) due to the low attrition rate in the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) Program. Admission is a multi-step process in which applicants are scored on their academic and non-academic (personality traits, abilities and core interests, values, and motivations) skills. Evaluation tools required to assess these two skill sets differ.

Currently, academic abilities are assessed by reviewing grades in prerequisite undergraduate courses and numeric scores from the biological sciences, physical sciences and verbal reasoning sections of the MCAT (Medical College Admission Test).

The veterinary community has long recognized that non-academic skills are required not only for the successful completion of the DVM Program but also for economic and career success in veterinary medicine. Non-academic abilities are currently assessed through the Background Information Form; references letters; and an interview. OVC will follow the Multiple Mini Interview (MMI) format for the first time this year. The MMI is modeled after the Objective Standardized Clinical Examination (OSCE) and was developed by the Michael G. DeGroot School of Medicine at McMaster University as the interview tool for admissions to their undergraduate MD program. The MMI consists of a series of short, timed, structured interview stations that draws multiple samples of a candidate's ability to think on their feet, communicate opinions and ideas, critically appraise information and demonstrate advanced thought/knowledge of the issues facing the profession. A number of papers have now been published illustrating the reliability and validity of the MMI.

The non-academic skills assessed by the MMI reflect the educational goals and objectives of OVC as well as the skills identified by the veterinary profession in Ontario as being necessary for a successful career.

The process of admissions is pivotal in directing the future of the veterinary profession and addressing concerns of the veterinary community. Therefore, the evaluation tools used to assess the academic and non-academic

skills of candidates must be both valid and reliable in order to select those that exemplify competent and successful veterinary students and veterinary professionals. This longitudinal study will review the reliability and validity of the current evaluation process for admission to the DVM Program at OVC with a focus on the MMI format.

**Procedures:**

If you volunteer to participate in this research project, all we ask is that you sign this consent form. After you have read and signed this informed consent form, the academic and non-academic information from your admissions application will be used to assess the validity and reliability of the admissions process to the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Program at the Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph. As well, if you are accepted into the DVM Program, your participation will permit access to your course marks over the 4 years of the DVM program and your NAVLE scores (North American Veterinary Licensing Exam). Your consent to participate will also allow the investigators to contact you again, in future, if further information from you is required to complete this study.

**Potential Risks and Discomforts:**

Participation in this research project will not pose any risk to your application, potential entry into the DVM Program or experience in the DVM Program if you are accepted. There are no greater risks to participation in this study than those experienced in daily life.

**Potential Benefits to Participants and/or Society:**

Participation in this research project will assist in, and influence the tools used in the Admissions process to the DVM Program at OVC. Using your data in order to assess the reliability and validity of this process will help to ensure the criteria used selects for the most qualified applicants to the DVM Program. Results of this study will be reported in the veterinary literature.

**Payment for Participation:**

There is no payment for participating.

**Confidentiality:**

Every effort will be made to ensure confidentiality of any identifying information that is obtained in connection with this study. You will be assigned an Identification Code. Results will be presented in an aggregated format that will not identify any one person. All research records obtained will be kept locked in a secure office in the OVC Dean's Office. All paper and electronic records will be destroyed five years after completion of this research project. Those making the admission decisions will not have access to any data from this study, nor will they be aware of whether or not you chose to participate.

**Participation and Withdrawal:**

You can choose whether to be in this study or not. If you choose not to participate, it will not affect your application, potential entry into the DVM Program or experience in the DVM Program if you are accepted. If you volunteer to be in this study, you may withdraw at any time without consequences of any kind. You may exercise the option of removing your data from the study. You may also refuse to answer any questions you don't want to answer and still remain in the study. The investigator may withdraw you from this research if circumstances arise that warrant doing so.

**Rights of Research Participants:**

You may withdraw your consent at any time and discontinue participation without penalty. You are not waiving any legal claims, rights or remedies because of your participation in this research study. This study has been reviewed and received ethics clearance through the University of Guelph Research Ethics Board. If you have questions regarding your rights as a research participant, contact:

Research Ethics Coordinator  
University of Guelph  
437 University Centre  
Guelph, ON N1G 2W1

Telephone: (519) 824-4120, ext. 56606  
Fax: (519) 821-5236  
E-mail: sauld@uoguelph.ca

**Questions:**

If you have any questions regarding this research project or this consent form, please contact Dr. Peter Conlon at 519-824-4120 ext. 54413 or by email at: pconlon@uoguelph.ca

**Signature of Research Participant:**

**I have read the information provided for the study “*A Longitudinal Study of the Reliability and Validity of the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Admission Process at the Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph*” as described herein. My questions have been answered to my satisfaction, and I agree to participate in this study. I have been given a copy of this form.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Participant (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Participant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Signature of Witness:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Witness (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Witness

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date