*This document outlines the script for preliminary interviews with local otologists and the request for the Society members’ email addresses. V-1 27-Oct-2016*

**Script for Preliminary Interviews with Local Otologists**

“Hello, my name is Arushri Swarup and I am working with Dr. Adrian James from SickKids to develop instruments to facilitate endoscopic ear surgery. I was wondering if you would be able to comment on your experience of TEES, its advantages and disadvantages and limitations of currently available instrumentation. I would like to use your comments, which will remain anonymous, to formulate a questionnaire that will be sent out to ear surgeons globally to understand the needs of TEES. You do not have to participate in this interview and your comments will remain anonymous. Even if you consent to participate you have the right to not answer individual questions or to withdraw from the study at any time. Your participation or nonparticipation in this interview will be unknown and will not affect your professional status and/or integrity in any way.”

**Letter to Medical Society**

“Dear <Insert Name of Society Communication Chair>,

We are conducting an independent study to develop surgical instrumentation optimised for endoscopic ear surgery. We would like to survey the members of <Insert Name of Society> to investigate their perception of how the design of current otological instruments impacts on their ability to complete ear surgery endoscopically. We would be very grateful if you could email your members a link to a simple 10-question survey that would take about **5 minutes** to complete. The identity of individuals’ participation or nonparticipation in this survey will not be recorded and participation will not affect their professional status or integrity in any way.

Interest in the use of endoscopes for otologic surgery has increased dramatically in the last few years, but is still not widely practiced. We hypothesize that the design of current otologic instrumentation provides a significant limitation to adoption of this technique as instruments were developed for two-handed microscope-guided surgery. This survey is part of a Needs Analysis to guide our efforts to develop better surgical instrumentation. We would very much appreciate the contribution of members of the <Insert Name of Society> toward this goal.

For questions regarding the research, please contact:

Arushri Swarup, MASc. Candidate, Institute for Biomaterials and Biomedical Engineering, University of Toronto, email: arushri.swarup@sickkids.ca

Principal Investigator: Dr. Adrian James, Paediatric Otorhinolaryngologist, SickKids Hospital, adrian.james@sickkids.ca

Thank you

Sincerely,

Dr. Adrian James”