Letter of Information and Consent

Drug Checking Peer Training

Project Title: Creating a Drug Checking Network Using Machine Learning Enabled Spectrometers

Principal Investigator (PI): Professor Francois Lagugne-Labarthet, Faculty of Science, Western University, London, ON, Canada. 519-661-2111 x81006 – flagugne@uwo.ca

Dear Prospective Participant,

We are inviting you to participate in a research study conducted by Dr. Francois Lagugne-Labarthet and Dr. Abe Oudshoorn of Western University. This project provides voluntary drug testing to clients of supervised consumption sites in Ontario. In this component of the project you have signed up to receive Drug Checking Peer Training, so we will be collecting some information about yourself and this training. Drug checking refers to testing a sample of drugs to understand the potential contents.

Participants must be 18 years of age or older to participate.

What is the purpose of the study?

The purpose of this study is to give Canadians data regarding drug consumption. Currently, there is very limited access to drug-checking across Canada for people who use drugs (PWUD). The lack of drug-checking services leads to people consuming substances that they do not intend to consume such as fentanyl and its analogs. This leads to accidental overdoses and deaths. We want to understand both what drugs are being consumed in Ontario, but more importantly, how learning about what is in your sample might impact decisions you make around using. Additionally, Drug Checking Peers are being trained as a way to better integrate, involve and incorporate People with Lived and Living Experiences (PWLLEs) into appropriate healthcare research initiatives. Which is believed to result in better community commitment and uptake of the related service. This project will help to determine whether training PWLLEs as Drug Checking Peers, which includes operational education and certification of Scatr's Series One portable device, is a valuable and effective way to increase knowledge, awareness and usage of local Drug Checking and overall Harm Reduction Strategies and Services.

What will I do?

Your local supervised consumption site and the drug checking device team will be providing you with drug checking training. The training will be conducted on site, with a Scatr Series One device present. It will be scheduled for 3 hours in length, which will include a hands-on instructional and operational tutorial for using the Scatr Series One device. In addition to educational modules focused on results interpretation and delivery, Drug Checking Peer self-care, as well as a feedback and group discussion period. You will be awarded a certificate of completion at the end. Before and after the training you are invited to complete a brief survey to tell us about yourself and what you know or have learned about drug checking.

What are the risks and benefits of the study?

There are no known physical risk to participating in this research. However, because we are collecting identifiable information from you there is always the risk of privacy breach despite following best practices to secure your information. There are no known risks to completing the survey questions.

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Can I withdraw from or decline the study?

Yes, if you decline to complete the survey you will still receive the Drug Checking Peer training. You may also withdraw from the study at any time prior to publication of the findings without negative consequences. If you would like to completely remove your data from the study, please contact the study team..

Compensation

There is no compensation for participation in this study.

Is the study voluntary and confidential?

Participation in this study is completely voluntary. The research team will strive to maintain privacy and confidentiality. With your permission, we will record your gender, age, racial/ethnic identity, and if you identify as LGBTQ or another minority sexual orientation or gender identity. These will only be reported all together for all participants at a site, not individually.

Western University Health Sciences Research Ethics Board and representatives may access your identifiable study records for monitoring purposes.

Your data from the survey will be provided in hard copy to the Western researchers named above for analysis. This research data will be stored for 7 years post-publication, and subsequently deleted.

Results of the Study

Results of the survey may be published in scholarly journals, presented at research conferences, and shared with stakeholders in the health sector. Results will also be shared in a report the project funder, Health Canada.

Conflict of Interest

The testing devices on which you are being trained are created by a company called Scatr. The study researchers have no conflict of interest in the work and no financial relationship to Scatr. Scatr has no on-site involvement in regards to data collection. All will be done by the site workers who have no conflict of interest. Additionally, Scatr is not doing the data analysis or generating the site reports. Data is simply being provided to the research team who will do the analysis and dissemination of results independently.

As the developer of the drug testing device, Scatr may financially benefit from the results of the study.

For More Information:

Western University Health Sciences Research Ethics Board (HSREB)requires access to the study records to monitor the conduct of this research. Please contact the Office of Human Research ethics if you have questions or concerns about your rights as a participant and/or the conduct of this study.

Phone: (519) 661-3036
Email: ethics@uwo.ca

Please contact Dr. Lagugne-Labarthet, the Principal Investigator, with any questions pertaining to the study, including the purpose and participant requirements.

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Phone: 519-661-2111 x81006
Email: flagugne@uwo.ca

Sincerely,
Professor Francois Lagugne-Labarthet
Western University
flagugne@uwo.ca

Consent

Dr. Lagugne-Labarthet and/or others intend to claim sole ownership of any research results consistent with this consent. By consenting to this study, you agree that Dr. Lagugne-Labarthet can apply for patents and you will not receive any financial benefit that might come from the research.

I have read the Letter of Information and have had the nature of the study explained to me, and I agree to participate. All questions have been answered to my satisfaction.

Participant's Name (please print): _____

Participant's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Person Obtaining Informed Consent (please print): _____

Signature: _____

Date:

My signature means that I have explained the study to the participant named above and that I have answered all questions asked.

Date: