**CONSENT FORM FOR PARTICIPANTS INVOLVED IN RESEARCH**

**INFORMATION TO PARTICIPANTS:**

We would like to invite you to be a part of a study into human depression analysis, an experimental study of the use of AI Botics, that is Chatbots, for early detection.

As we are researching human depression analysis, your participation with the data collection would be highly valued. We would like to ask you to have a mutual conversation with a chatbot, a software that plays a role as an interface to interview the participants and record their conversation. You will be asked to provide your answers to 30 questions by the chatbot and report on your mood, sleep habits, appetite and general health symptoms.

The only potential risk associated with this research is the security breaches and in order to eliminate the impact on the participants, and to mitigate the risk of identifiability of the subjects and to keep your privacy safe, the followings actions are carefully considered:

1. Reducing the variety and number of factors collected for the participants when practical.
2. Separating the storage of identifications and the relevant data.
3. Accessing are only allocated to the supervisors and the researcher.
4. Securing the data by encryption when communicating within the research team

Despite the above-mentioned risk in which the safeguards are carefully considered, there are a set of benefits related to the participation. By participating in this research, you:

1. can be informed of any early signs of depression. As early detection is a key to have the depression cured completely and they benefit from this quick detection.
2. are contributing to the knowledge gained from this research that will hopefully benefit the society
3. have a chance to take part in a research that is aiming to find new ways for early detection of depression and its severity with the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Although the probability of occurrence is low to rare. We would also like to mention in case you experience any mood swings or difficulty as a result of interaction with the chatbot, you can postpone the session to a later suitable time. As per Consent Form, your participation is voluntary and you can withdraw at any stage without any consequences.

**CERTIFICATION BY SUBJECT**

I,

of

certify that I am at least 18 years old\* and that I am voluntarily giving my consent to participate in the study:

human depression analysis, an experimental study of the use of AI Botics for early detection being conducted at Victoria University by Dr Khandakar Ahmed

I certify that the objectives of the study, together with any risks and safeguards associated with the procedures listed hereunder to be carried out in the research, have been fully explained to me by Payam Kaywan, Master by Research Student

and that I freely consent to participation involving the below-mentioned procedures:

* The participant will be contacted with an online chatbot to swap the questions and answers with
* The data collection will be conducted at the end of the session
* Data will be stored at an R Drive of Victoria University for the analysis stage
* The outcome will be revealed to report the success of the research or if there are any obstacles/issues on the way

I certify that I have had the opportunity to have any questions answered and that I understand that I can withdraw from this study at any time and that this withdrawal will not jeopardise me in any way.

I have been informed that the information I provide will be kept confidential.

Signed:

Date:

Any queries about your participation in this project may be directed to the researcher

Dr Khandakar Ahmed

Phone Number: 03 9919 6312

If you have any queries or complaints about the way you have been treated, you may contact the Ethics Secretary, Victoria University Human Research Ethics Committee, Office for Research, Victoria University, PO Box 14428, Melbourne, VIC, 8001, email Researchethics@vu.edu.au or phone (03) 9919 4781 or 4461.

**[\*please note: Where the participant/s are aged under 18, separate parental consent is required; where the participant/s are unable to answer for themselves due to mental illness or disability, parental or guardian consent may be required.]**