

E-Mail to potential participants

**Subject Line:**

Invitation – Media Lab Study on Dealing with Serious Stuff

**Body:**

Are you or someone in your family dealing with a health or life-threatening condition?

Have you lost a loved one, and are you still coping with bereavement?

Are you dealing with a transition in your life that is causing you extra stress?

We seek participants for a 21-day study centered on an Android application that lets you share your wellness and stories with loved ones. Help us research the use of mobile applications on coping with these issues.

Please email me at [joyc@mit.edu](mailto:joyc@mit.edu) for more information.

Warmly,

Joy C. Chen

Affective Computing Group at MIT Media Lab

E-Mail to potential participants, second round.

**Subject Line:**

Media Lab Study on Dealing with Serious Stuff [up to \$60 for participation]

**Body:**

Are you or a friend experiencing a particularly serious or difficult period in your life right now?

This can take the form of someone in your families suffering from poor health or a life-threatening condition, bereavement, or it may just be a transition in your life that is causing you extra stress.

We seek participants for a study to better understand how people deal with the serious stuff in their lives and how modern technology is involved.

You (and friends) can help us research the use of mobile applications on coping with these issues. This can be by signing up for an interview and/or using an Android application for up to 21 days.

You can be compensated up to \$60 for your participation.

Please email me at [joyc@mit.edu](mailto:joyc@mit.edu) for more information.

Warmly,  
Joy C. Chen  
Affective Computing Group at MIT Media Lab

Follow up email:

Thank you for your email! I'm pleased to meet you. My name is Joy. Here is some additional information about this study. We will have information sessions on 3/9, 3/11, 3/12 at 4:00 in the Media Lab [rooms TBD]. If you are eligible to participate (see details below), **please RSVP for a session by replying to this email.**

Our Mission:

By making it easier to share our feelings and worries with loved ones, we aim to:

1. Improve day to day feelings of presence and connectedness.
2. Build resilience and cohesion for times when support is critical.

What's involved:

If you would like to help by being a participant, you will be asked to:

1. Attend one of our information sessions.
  - Fill out a questionnaire.
  - Sign consent forms for participation.
2. Chat with me in an individual session.
  - This can be in person or over the phone.
  - You can opt out of this and still participate in the study.
3. Install an app on your Android phone and use it for 21 days.
4. Answer a questionnaire at the end of each week.
5. Have another chat with me at the end.
  - Same conditions as #2

Requirements:

- You are an MIT student
- You own an Android mobile phone
- You are between 18-60 years old

Compensation:

You will be compensated with \$25 at the conclusion of the study, or if you decide to stop at any point, \$1 \* days you participated. You will also receive another \$5 at the end of each completed week. If you choose to participate in the interviews at the beginning or end of the study, you will also be compensated \$10 for each. Payment will be at the end of the study.

Lastly, if you are fairly sure you would like to participate, please let me know if you want to schedule an interview time, now, instead of after the info session, so you can have your pick of time slots.

Warmly,

Joy C. Chen

Affective Computing Group at MIT Media Lab