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October 11th 2018

Mr John Sloan
C/O Professor Julie Berndsen
UCD School of Computer Science
Belfield
Dublin 4

Re: LS-18-85-Sloan-Berndsen: *Emotional Response Language Education E-learning Platform*

Dear Mr Sloan

Thank you for your recent submission to the Human Research Ethics Committee –Sciences. Your application was reviewed at the meeting held on 10/10/2018. The Decision of the Committee is that **approval is subject to the following clarifications**:

- Should there be approval sought from the university where these students are based (ie from someone other than Professor Luo)?

Application:
- Q7 v: Please provide more detail on composition of the sample;
- Q10a): Please outline what steps will be taken to ensure that Professor Luo's role in the study does not create any pressure for her students to take part or any undue expectation that they will do so;
- Q10: Specifically, how will the students from Taiwan be informed about the project and be recruited? Will it be made clear to the students that they are under no obligation to participate?
- Q11: Professor Luo "will assign her own students to this experiment. She will choose those who she judges as most suited …" Please clarify. Participants cannot be "assigned" to take part in research, merely invited to do so;
- Q12: It is stated that participants can withdraw, but there is no explanation of the protocol for handling data for withdrawn participants;
- Q13a): Please review the consent process and clarify whether Q13 a) should be "yes" rather than "no" (a consent form is included in the supporting documentation);
- Q15: "Only the PI, Professor Beate Luo and the participant will have knowledge of the link between username and participant." How will the PI and Professor Luo know what this link is? Why is it necessary that they should know this?
- Q20: Is the idea that the data gathered from the study will be made available publicly for research purposes? If so, there is no objection to this, if it is suitable de-identified, but this should be stated in the submission.

Documents
- Information Sheet: *Why have I been invited to take part?* Please change "chosen" to "suggested", "recommendation" or something of that nature;

…//..

- Please include more detail in the information leaflet, so that the prospective participant is properly informed before making his or her decision.
- The information and consent forms are only in English, a translation into the native language should also be provided;
- Consent Form: Please check for and correct errors (e.g. "trian" instead of "train").
- Please include more detail in the methods section on what the participants will be doing in and also supplementary information e.g. to what questions or prompts are they responding and what will a typical session look like?
- Consent Form: Please consider asking for the participant specific consent to the data being archived.

If possible, please provide a response within one month of the date of this letter but **note that reviewed applications remain pending for three months from the date of this letter.** If you have not provided a response to the Chair/Committee within this timeframe your application will be recorded as withdrawn and you will be required to submit a new application form. You should also note the following instructions for submitting your response/resubmitting:

NOTE for the PI/Supervisor: Recruitment of participants, or data collection should not begin until after all satisfactory responses have been made by the applicant and approved by the Committee, and the formal approval letter has been issued to the applicant and the PI/Supervisor.

Responses:
1. Please provide a cover letter that answers each decision point and ensure that this letter is included in your supporting document template;
2. Please ensure that your application form and supporting documents are submitted in **Word format only**;
3. Please highlight your amendments to the application form and any relevant support documents in red ink;
4. Please ensure that all Information Leaflets and Consent Forms are on UCD headed paper and are laid out in accordance with the Guidelines;
5. Please ensure that you proof read all documents before submission.

If you have any queries regarding the above please contact the Office of Research Ethics & Integrity.

Yours sincerely,

Mr T. John O'Dowd
Chairman, Human Research Ethics Committee - Sciences