

Letter of Solicitation

Dear Registered Dental Hygienist,



My name is Stefanie Rufo, I am a doctoral student in the Department of Interprofessional Health Sciences and Health Administration, School of Health of Medical Sciences at Seton Hall University. I am conducting a research study as part of my doctoral dissertation, and I am inviting you to take part in this study.

Title:

Registered dental hygienists' knowledge, attitudes, and practice of workplace ergonomics during clinical practice.

Principle Investigator:

Stefanie Rufo, MS, RDH

Purpose:

The purpose of this study is to determine registered dental hygienists' knowledge, attitudes, and practices of workplace ergonomics during clinical practice and to explore their ergonomics education experiences, use of ergonomics, and facilitators and barriers to ergonomic practice.

Summary of research study:

The following information will help you decide whether you want to participate in the study. You have the right to ask questions at any time.

You will be asked to complete a one-time 34-question online survey questionnaire. The estimated time to complete the survey is no more than 20 minutes. The primary risk of participation is minimal. The main benefit of participation is to help establish a baseline understanding of registered dental hygienists' ergonomic knowledge, attitude, and practice during clinical practice.

Inclusion and exclusion criteria:

You are being asked to participate in this research study because you are a licensed registered dental hygienist working in clinical practice in the United States and can read and write in English. Exclusion criteria for this study is not being a licensed RDH in the U.S. or being a licensed RDH who is not working in clinical practice, under the age of 18, an individual with impaired decision-making capacity, a prisoner, or unable to read/write in English.

Your right to participate, say no, or withdraw:

Participation in research is voluntary. You can decide whether to participate or not to participate. You can choose to participate in the research study now and then decide to leave the research at any time by exiting the survey or closing your web browser. Your choice will not be held against you. The person in charge of the research study can remove you from the research study without your approval. Possible reasons for removal include any missing data or submitting an incomplete survey where responses are required, or if the individual does not meet the inclusion criteria.

Potential benefit:

There may be no direct benefit to you from this study. You may obtain personal satisfaction from knowing that you are participating in a project that contributes to new information regarding research knowledge, attitude, and practice.

Potential risks:

The risks associated with this study are minimal in nature. To the best of our knowledge, the things you will be doing have no more risk of harm that you would have in everyday life.

Confidentiality and privacy:

Efforts will be made to limit the use or disclosure of your personal information. This information may include the research study documents or other course documents used for the purpose of conducting the study. These documents may include any downloaded data from Qualtrics. We cannot promise complete secrecy. There is always the possibility of hacking online material. The research team will take steps to ensure all information submitted in the online survey will remain confidential. Organizations that oversee research safety may inspect and copy your information. This includes the Seton Hall University Institutional Review Board who oversees the safe and ethical conduct of research at this institution.

This survey is being hosted by Qualtrics and involves a secure connection. Terms of service, addressing confidentiality, may be viewed at <https://www.qualtrics.com/support/survey-platform/getting-started/data-protection-privacy/>. Upon receiving the results of your study, any possible identifiers will be deleted by the investigator. You will be identified only by a unique subject number. No email addresses will be collected as part of this study. All data will be stored on a USB memory key with no access to the file. The data will be encrypted. This data is protected by use of a password known only to the primary investigator. The USB memory key will also remain in a locked cabinet at the dissertation chair's office for a period of 3 years following graduation, after which time all data will be destroyed.

The results of the research study may be published, but your name will not be used.

Data sharing:

De-identified data from this study may be shared with the research community at large to advance knowledge. We will remove or code any personal information that could identify you before files are shared with other researchers to ensure that, by current scientific standards and known methods, no one will be able to identify you from the information we share. Despite these measures, we cannot guarantee the anonymity of your personal data.

Cost and compensation:

You will not be responsible for any of the costs or expenses associated with your participation in this study. There is no payment for your time to participate in this study.

Conflict of interest disclosure:

The principal investigator and members of the study team have no financial conflicts of interest to report.

Contact information:

If you have questions, concerns, or complaints about this research project, you can contact the Seton Hall University Institutional Review Board (IRB) at 973-761-9334 or irb@shu.edu. If you want a copy of this consent for your records, you can print it from the screen.

Participation and Consent:

If you wish to participate in this study, please click on the link below to access the survey. If you know of anyone else who may also qualify for this survey, you may forward them the survey link for their participation. Once you click on the link, it will take you to the Qualtrics survey introduction to the study, where you will be given the option to participate or not participate in the study. By selecting “I wish to participate, take me to the survey” and by submitting this answer, you are giving your consent to participate in the study. If you do not wish to participate in this study, please select “I do not wish to participate, exit the survey,” and submit this answer to exit the survey.

Thank you for your consideration in participating and contributing to my dissertation research. Your time is greatly appreciated.

Click here to take the survey:

https://shu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3eoPGgeK61qGsCy