



PARTICIPANT INFORMATION FOR THE WOMEN FOR ONE HEALTH BARRIERS STUDY – Survey–

A study to understand the barriers women and other underrepresented groups face to attending One Health event

QUT Ethics Approval Number 7883

Research team

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Why is the study being conducted?

In 2023, the Women for One Health (WfOH) international network was established. Over 300 members have joined within a few months, demonstrating the need for an inclusive and supportive group to share issues, concerns and opportunities. A key initiating priority of the network was to engage in conversations with the World One Health Congress (WOHC) organisers, the Global One Health Community, regarding the lack of gender equality and diversity at the 2022 World One Health Congress and other global One Health events.

One Health (OH) is a framework for public health that is growing in international and domestic significance. One Health has been at the forefront of a new Pandemic Treaty and within International Organisations. One Health High Level Expert Panel (OHHLEP) defines OH as an integrated, unifying approach that aims to sustainably balance and optimise the health of people, animals and ecosystems. It recognises the health of humans, domestic and wild animals, plants, and the wider environment

(including ecosystems) are closely linked and interdependent. The approach mobilises multiple sectors, disciplines and communities at varying levels of society to work together to foster well-being and tackle threats to health and ecosystems while addressing the collective need for clean water, energy and air, safe and nutritious food, taking action on climate change, and contributing to sustainable development.

A primary ongoing role of the WfOH network is to advocate for better inclusion of women and other underrepresented groups, not only at the World One Health Congress but within all international One Health activities. In this research, we limit our consideration to conferences and workshops. To support organisers of such events to have more equitable engagement/programs, we need to understand the barriers that underrepresented groups face in participating in OH events.

The aim of this project is to understand the main barriers that women and other underrepresented groups face, in their participation in international One Health (OH) events. An international OH event is any event that brings together OH experts from different countries, and includes conferences, colloquiums, meetings and workshops. Understanding the importance of such barriers in the context of global and one health conference attendance and the strategies implemented to facilitate attendance is an intentional first step towards establishing 'conference equity'.

You are invited to participate in this research project because your work has been identified as a One Health (OH) activity, i.e. one that "is an integrated, unifying approach that aims to sustainably balance and optimise the health of people, animals and ecosystems. It recognises the health of humans, domestic and wild animals, plants, and the wider environment (including ecosystems) are closely linked and inter-dependent" (One Health High-Level Expert Panel (OHHLEP) definition 2021).

What does participation involve?

Your participation will involve a survey of 10 multiple-choice and 2 open-ended questions (that will focus on your participation, or barriers to participation in OH events).

Your participation in this research project is entirely voluntary. You can withdraw from the research project anytime without providing any reason for the decision. Even after completing the survey, if you change your mind and are required to withdraw your response, you can contact the research team (within two weeks after completing the survey) through the provided communication channels and make your request. Afterwards, the records of your responses shall be completely removed. Your decision to participate or not participate will also be kept private and will not impact your current or future relationship with QUT or your employer.

The information you provide will be stored under the QUT protocols, ensuring confidentiality.

What are the possible benefits for me if I take part?

Although there are no direct tangible benefits of this research for you, through your participation, you will be able to contribute to the understanding of the barriers that prevent or discourage women and other underrepresented groups from participating in OH events. Also, you will get the opportunity to empower yourself by sharing your views on how to increase inclusivity and diversity in participating in OH events.

You can request a brief summary of the study outcomes by checking the box on the consent form and providing your email address at the end of the survey.

What are the possible risks for me if I take part?

There is limited risk associated with your participation in this research project. If feelings of inconvenience, discomfort or anxiety about any questions arise, you can move on to a different question, take a break, or withdraw from the research without providing any reason for your decision.

Please note, QUT provides for limited free psychology, family therapy or counselling services for research participants of QUT research projects who may experience discomfort or distress as a result of their participation in the research. Should you wish to access this service please call the Clinic Receptionist on **07 3138 0999** (Monday–Friday only 9am–5pm), QUT Psychology and Counselling Clinic, 44 Musk Avenue, Kelvin Grove, and indicate that you are a research participant. Alternatively, Lifeline provides access to online, phone or face-to-face support, call **13 11 14** for 24-hour telephone crisis support. If you are aged up to 25, you can also call the Kids Helpline on **1800 551 800**.

What about privacy and confidentiality?

Your comments and responses will be coded to conduct data analysis and thus the information you provided will be disaggregated from your identity when doing the analysis.

Every effort will be made to ensure that the data you provide cannot be traced back to you in reports, publications, and other forms of presentation. Any personal information that could potentially identify you will be removed or changed before files are shared with other researchers of the project while all the research outputs (publications) will be exclusive of the personal identifiers of the participants.

Any data collected for this research project will be stored securely as per QUT's Management of Research Data Policy. Data will be stored for a minimum of five years and can be disclosed if it is to protect you or others from harm, if specifically required by law, or if a regulatory or monitoring body such as the ethics committee requests it.

How do I give my consent to participate?

Kindly click the consent buttons to confirm your agreement to participate.

What if I have questions about the research project?

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact one of the listed researchers:

Dr Katie Woolaston katie.woolaston@qut.edu.au

Dr Cat McGillycuddy cat.mcgillycuddy@ukhsa.gov.uk

Dr Rebecca Maudling maudling@yahoo.com

What if I have a concern or complaint regarding the conduct of the research project?

QUT is committed to research integrity and the ethical conduct of research projects. If you wish to discuss the study with someone not directly involved, particularly in relation to matters concerning policies, information or complaints about the conduct of the study or your rights as a participant, you may contact the QUT Research Ethics Advisory Team on +61 7 3138 5123 or email humanethics@qut.edu.au.

Thank you for helping with this research project. Please keep this sheet for your information.