Informed Consent

Title of the Study: Off the clock nursing: Improving APRN professional engagement through a dedicated social media application

Principle Investigator(s): Christopher Allison RN BSN, Ailsa Lewis Bennett RN BSN, Crystal Sloan RN BSN

Faculty Investigators: Dr Sallie Coke & Dr. Sandra Copeland

Introduction

You are invited to participate in a focus group discussion for a Doctor of Nursing Practice project. Before deciding whether to participate, it is important that you understand why this project is being conducted and what your participation will involve. Please read the following information carefully and ask any questions you may have before deciding whether to participate.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to gather feedback for a nursing-focused social media application designed to support professional communication, collaboration, and educational resource sharing among nurses. The information collected in this focus group will help determine what features are most desirable in a pilot social media application and to inform the application's core functions.

Procedures

If you agree to participate, you will be asked to:

- A semi-structured interview guide will facilitate discussion regarding communication needs, functionality considerations, desired features, and engagement tools that are favored in a social media platform. Interview notes will be collected during each session to document key discussion points and relevant contextual information.

- Principal investigators will lead focus group sessions via video confer**e**nce in small groups. A series of open-ended questions from a semi-structed script will be asked of participants to entice spontaneous responses and open communication.
- Sessions will be recorded, transcribed, and video and voice recordings will be destroyed after transcription.
- Focus group sessions are expected to last no longer than 20 minutes. Sessions will be completed over a series of four weeks at predetermined times designed for convenience with multiple schedules.

Risks and Benefits

- Risks: *You are not likely to have any physical, emotional, social, or legal risks that are greater than what you experience in everyday life or during a regular exam or test.*
- Benefits: *Your participation helps inform the investigators of the best core functions of a new nursing-focused social media application that will later help elevate the field of nursing through collaboration and dissemination of knowledge, education, and additional resources.*

Confidentiality

Your identity and responses will be kept **confidential** to the extent permitted by law. Responses from recordings will be transcribed verbatim by an approved service with all personal identifiers removed after transcription. Each participant will be assigned a unique pseudonym to ensure anonymity, and recordings will then be securely deleted. To protect participants' privacy, all data will be stored securely on encrypted, password-protected drives associated with GCSU. Only researchers who have completed confidentiality training and signed non-disclosure agreements will have access to the data. Original audio/video recordings will be destroyed after transcription verification, consistent with institutional policy. Data will be kept for a minimum of three years, aligning with institutional requirements.

Voluntary Participation

Participation is completely **voluntary**. You may choose not to participate or withdraw at any time without penalty. If you withdraw, your data will be reviewed, deleted, and not used in any of the study results if you completed less than 20% of the survey questions. If you completed more than 20% of the survey questions, the completed responses will be used in the study unless you state otherwise.

You may find that some questions are invasive or personal. If you become uncomfortable answering any questions, you may cease participation at that time.

Compensation

There is no compensation for participating in this study.

Questions & Contact Information

If you have any questions about this study, you may ask them now or contact the researchers later at:

- **Principal Investigator(s):**

  Christopher Allison – christopher.allison@bobcats.gcsu.edu, 507-271-7245

  Ailsa Lewis Bennett – ailsa.lewis@bobcats.gcsu.edu, 404-839-5836

  Crystal Sloan – crystal.sloan@bobcats.gcsu.edu, 678-663-0265

- **Faculty Supervisor(s):**
  Sallie Coke – sallie.coke@gcsu.edu & Sandra Copeland – sandra.copeland@gcsu.edu

If you want to know more about the purpose of this research, a full explanation will be available after the study is finished. You can use the above information to contact the researchers.

Consent Statement

By signing below, you confirm that:

- You have read and understand this consent form.
- You voluntarily agree to participate in this research.
- You understand that you can withdraw at any time without penalty.
- You will be asked to sign two forms (one for you and one for the researcher).

Participant's Consent:

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Researcher's Confirmation:

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Research at Georgia College involving human participants is carried out under the oversight of the Institutional Review Board. Address questions or problems regarding these activities to the GC IRB Chair, email: irb@gcsu.edu.