



**ONLINE PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET  
(for Asian surgeons)**

**Study Title: A Mixed Methods Study on Gender Representation and Women Surgeon Leadership in Asia**

**Version No. : 1**

**Version Date : 1 February 2024**

We would like to invite you to take part in a research study. Before you decide whether to participate, you need to understand why the research is being done and what it would involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully; talk to others about the study if you wish.

Ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information.  
Take time to decide whether or not you wish to take part.

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**1. What is the purpose of this study?**

- The aim of this study is to perform a thorough analysis of gender representation and women's leadership within Asian surgical specialties.

**2. Why is this study important?**

- Currently, there is a notable gap in studies on gender disparities in Asian surgical specialties. While global surgery has been extensively studied, comprehensive analyses specific to Asia are lacking. This absence impedes the development of targeted interventions to improve gender equity in Asian surgical fields.

**3. What type of study is this?**

- This is a mixed method study that comprises both quantitative and qualitative components, examining gender disparities in Asian surgical specialties. Quantitative analysis, utilizing the Gender Parity Index (GPI), will be conducted through a cross-sectional study and survey among surgeons. Qualitative insights will be gathered through in-depth interviews with female leaders, exploring factors influencing gender disparity, causal links, coping strategies, and the role of leadership in fostering gender equity.

**4. What is the procedure that is being tested?  
(If applicable)**

- Not applicable.

**5. Does the investigatory product contain culturally sensitive ingredients eg: bovine or porcine?  
(if applicable)**

- Not applicable.

**6. Why have I been invited to participate in this study?**

- You have been invited to take part in the survey because you are a surgical trainee or qualified surgeon and have the majority of your practice (>60%) in Asia.



**7. Who should not participate in this study?**

- You should avoid participating in this study if you do not feel sufficiently fluent in English to complete the surveys.

**8. Can I refuse to take part in the study?**

- Yes, you can.
- You can also withdraw at any time, even if you have completed part of the study.

**9. What will happen to me if I take part?**

- You are required to fill up the survey questionnaire form by clicking on the link provided in the email, ideally within 14 working days from the date of receiving my email.

**10. How long will I be involved in this study?**

- Survey participation will take 10 minutes, encompassing a consent section and sections covering items on gender discrimination experience, perceptions, reasons for gender discrimination, suggestions to decrease it, and demographic information.

**11. What are the possible disadvantages and risks?**

- This study has minimal risk.
- There is a very small chance that some of your personal data may be breached.

**12. What are the possible benefits to me?**

- It is unlikely there will be any benefit to you.
- Results from the study may benefit future surgical trainees and surgical patients.

**13. Who will have access to my medical records and research data?**

- The online survey only requests limited personal information, such as age, years of practice, surgical specialty, rank, practice setting, and geographical area of practice. This information is stored separately from the questionnaire responses and is only accessible to the study team. No medical record information will be accessed or retained for the study.

**14. Will my records/data be kept confidential?**

- Your personal data will be kept in secure computers in locked offices with restricted access.
- The handling of the answers complies with the EU General Data Protection Regulation and the Dutch Act on Implementation of the General Data Protection Regulation.

**15. What will happen to any samples I give?  
(If applicable)**

- Not applicable.



**16. What will happen if I don't want to carry on with the study?**

- Nothing will happen to you as a result of refusing to carry on with the study.

**17. What if relevant new information about the procedure/ drug/ intervention becomes available?  
(If applicable)**

- Not applicable.

**18. What happens when the research study stops?  
(If applicable)**

- Not applicable.

**19. What will happen to the results of the research study?**

- The research findings will be featured in a postgraduate thesis, presented at reputable international scientific meetings through abstract submissions, and ultimately published in high-impact peer-reviewed scientific journals.

**20. Will I receive compensation for participating in this study?**

- No, there is no compensation.

**21. Who funds this study?**

- There is no funding for this study.

**22. Who should I contact if I have additional questions/problems during the study?**

- Name of investigator: Prof Shireen Anne Nah  
Affiliation: Paediatric & Neonatal Surgery, Department of Surgery, Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya  
Telephone number (Mobile number): 011-63399457  
Email: shireen.nah@um.edu.my

**23. Who should I contact if I am unhappy with how the study is being conducted?**

- Medical Research Ethics Committee  
University of Malaya Medical Centre  
Telephone number: 03-7949 3209/2251

