

Letter of Invitation

Title of the study: *Mother to daughter: Women in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics)*

Principal Investigator:
Donatille Mujawamariya PhD.
Education

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Co- Investigator:
Catherine Mavriplis PhD.
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Research assistant: Michelle Boucher, PhD student

Invitation to Participate: You are invited to participate in the abovementioned research study conducted by Prof. Donatille Mujawamariya, Faculty of Education and Prof. Catherine Mavriplis, Department of Mechanical Engineering. This project is funded by the NSERC / Pratt & Whitney Canada Chair for Women in Science and Engineering.

Participation: If you wish to participate in this study, please complete the attached information form and sign the consent form. Your decision to complete and return these documents will be interpreted as an indication of your consent to participate. The documents should take you approximately twenty minutes to complete. If you cannot get in touch and meet either one of the investigators or the research assistant to fill out the documents, an electronic version will be sent to you. You will be requested to complete them, sign them, scan them and return them to Prof. Donatille Mujawamariya at: dmujawar@uottawa.ca. You are under no obligation to participate and you can withdraw from the study at any time and/or refuse to answer any questions, without suffering any negative consequences. If you choose to withdraw, all data gathered until the time of withdrawal will be erased for electronic material and shredded for paper material.

Please note that the recruitment process is based on first come first served principle. As soon as the required number of participants is attained the recruitment process will stop.

Purpose of the Study: From this research, we seek to learn more about the maternal influence regarding the choice made by women to pursue a career in STEM.

Benefits: Many research studies indicate the importance of the parents' roles in the career choices of their children, but very few have pinpointed the influence of the mother in the career choice of her daughter(s). The participation rate of girls and women interested in studies and/or careers in

STEM has not increased in recent years. A better knowledge and understanding of that specific influence could allow defining strategies that may change this trend.

Risks: No risk is foreseeable regarding this research. As you are either a student or a professional woman involved in STEM, you will be asked, through a 30-45 minute recorded interview, to give your impressions of your mother's influence (or lack thereof) on your career choice. You are under no obligation to participate and you may decide to withdraw your participation. As mentioned in that case, all information and interview material will be systematically destroyed.

Confidentiality and Anonymity: The information that you will share will remain strictly confidential and will be used solely for the purposes of this research. The only people who will have access to the research data are Donatille Mujawamariya, Catherine Mavriplis and Michelle Boucher. Your answers to open-ended questions may be used verbatim in presentations and publications but neither you (nor your organization) will be identified. Anonymity is guaranteed by the use of pseudonyms applicable to either you or your work or family context. Only the investigators and the research assistant will have access to your interview verbatim.

Conservation of data: The information form and interviews will be kept in a locked filing cabinet (paper documents) and the electronic data will be protected by passwords on the PC in the office of Donatille Mujawamariya (University of Ottawa). This data will be kept for a period of 10 years.

If you have any questions with regards to the ethical conduct of this study, you may contact the Protocol Officer for Ethics in Research, University of Ottawa, Tabaret Hall, 550 Cumberland Street, Room 154, Ottawa, ON K1N 6N5, tel.: (613) 562-5387 or ethics@uottawa.ca.

Please keep this letter for your records.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Donatille Mujawamariya, investigator Catherine Mavriplis, co-investigator

Date

Date