

Dear Colleagues,

We are writing to request your participation in an upcoming research study entitled “**Healthy Academic Women at Work: The Implications of Health and Care for Careers over the Life-Course**”. Academic women who are members of either the Association of Professors of the University of Ottawa (APUO) or the Carleton University Academic Staff Association (CUASA) may participate in this study.

This research we will focus on the health issues (both personal and familial; mental/physical; acute/chronic; visible/invisible) that affect the productivity and career trajectory of academic women and the choices they make regarding the content, form, and quantity of their subsequent research. This research will help inform policy and practices to better accommodate academic women who confront health and care issues over their career trajectory.

Participants will have the opportunity to identify and reflect upon significant life events that may have impacted their career trajectory as academic women. We will make every effort to maintain the confidentiality of your responses, including assigning pseudonyms for each interviewee in our records and in attributing any comments. When attributing comments we may also need to indicate university, years since obtaining your PhD, rank, and nature of research environment (laboratory based or not). For example, a quote might be attributed to “Jane, Associate Professor at Carleton University, who completed her PhD 25 years ago and works in a wet lab”. Given the small size of the academic community, it is possible that your anonymity may be compromised even with the precautions that we put in place. . Recognizing this, and wanting to ensure the accuracy of the interview transcripts, all participants will have the opportunity to review the transcript of their interview and approve the use of quotes in future presentations and publications.

If you wish to participate in this study, please contact Yvonne James, the research assistant at yjame033@uottawa.ca, who will provide you with a short preliminary demographic questionnaire and a life course calendar to complete in advance of your interview. Yvonne will also coordinate a suitable time and place for one of the undersigned researchers to conduct an in-person interview. Please note that completion of the demographic questionnaire as well as a draft life course calendar may require an hour of preparatory work prior to your scheduled interview. The interviews will be audio-recorded and will last, on average, 1.5-2 hours.

Thank you for your consideration in this regard.

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