

Investigating the use of information search tools to perform medical tasks

Research team contacts

Principal Researcher:	Anton van der Vegt	HDR Student
Associate Researchers:	Dr Guido Zuccon	Principal Supervisor
	Professor Peter Bruza	Associate Supervisor
	Science and Engineering Faculty, Queensland University of Technology (QUT)	
	Dr Bevan Koopman	External Supervisor
	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO)	

What is the purpose of the research?

Researchers from CSIRO (Australian eHealth Research Centre) and Queensland University of Technology are conducting a user study to test a search engine designed to provide clinicians with succinct, accurate and evidence-based information for clinical decision making. The purpose of the study is to better understand clinician needs and behaviour whilst resolving a clinical problem, and ultimately to provide a better system to support improved patient outcomes.

Are you looking for people like me?

The research team is looking for:

Registered clinicians including GPs, nurses and hospital clinicians, who are accustomed to using search engines, understand the concept of evidence based medicine and have access to a computer connected to the internet.

What will you ask me to do?

Participation will involve completing 16 clinical question tasks using a custom medical literature search application, plus a pre-test/post-test questionnaire. The test can be performed remotely from a computer if you have access to the internet with either Firefox or Chrome search engines. The whole test should take approximately 2 hours of your time and must be performed in a single sitting. In the first stage of the test you will be provided with a series of clinical scenarios which you must provide your answer to. In the second stage, for each task, you will have a maximum of 10 minutes to do the following:

1. Read the description of a health case.
2. Answer the clinical question, associated with the case using your own knowledge (i.e., without performing any search).
3. Use the provided search technology as instructed to search for information related to the given health case.
4. When you have sufficient information to complete the task, or the task time limit has been reached, enter your answer.

Before and after the test you will be asked a series of questions relating to personality traits, search and medical experience and skills and other demographic information. All of this information is gathered anonymously.

Are there any risks for me in taking part?

The identified risks that might affect you when participating in this research is inconvenience and/or feelings of failure. Inconvenience will occur as you will be requested to spend your time searching and entering information on a computer. The likelihood this risk will occur is medium and the severity of the risk is low. Feelings of failure may occur if you feel unable to complete the whole test in the time allotted or unable to answer particular questions. The likelihood this risk will occur is low.

Are there any benefits for me in taking part?

You have the option of receiving your decision scores in relation to the other sample results received for self-reflection purposes. In the longer run, your study results can contribute to research findings that may be incorporated into future clinical decision support applications. You will also receive a copy of any published results relating to this study.

Will I be compensated for my time?

To recognise your contribution should you choose to participate and complete the study, the research team is offering you a \$50 gift card.

I am interested – what should I do next?

If you would like to participate in this study, you can contact the researcher for details of the next step:

Anton van der Vegt anton.vandervegt@hdr.qut.edu.au

You will be provided with further information to ensure that your decision and consent to participate is fully informed.

Thank You!

QUT Ethics Approval Number: 170000215