



# THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



Michael Smith Laboratories  
University of British Columbia  
2185 East Mall, Vancouver, B.C.  
Canada V6T 1Z4  
Tel: (604) 822-6264  
Fax: (604) 822-2114

## 2015 Consent Form for Parents & Assent for Children

### Study: Promoting more authentic views of science and scientific identity through creativity.

#### Study Team

##### Principal Investigator:

Dr. David Ng. Senior Instructor and Director, Advanced Molecular Biology Laboratory, Michael Smith Laboratories, University of British Columbia.  
Telephone: 604-822-6264, email: [db@mssl.ubc.ca](mailto:db@mssl.ubc.ca)

##### Co-Investigators

Dr. Marie-Claire Shanahan, Associate Professor. Werklund School of Education, University of Calgary, Email [mcschanah@ucalgary.ca](mailto:mcschanah@ucalgary.ca)

Ms. Latika Raisinghani, PhD Graduate Student, Department of Curriculum & Pedagogy, Faculty of Education, University of British Columbia, e-mail [latikarai@hotmail.com](mailto:latikarai@hotmail.com)

Ms. Tathali Urueta-Ortiz, PhD Graduate Student, Department of Curriculum & Pedagogy, Faculty of Education, University of British Columbia, e-mail: [tathali@mail.ubc.ca](mailto:tathali@mail.ubc.ca)

Ms. Janice Valdez, PhD Graduate student, Faculty of Education, Department of Language and Literacy Education, University of British Columbia, e-mail: [janice.valdez@alumni.ubc.ca](mailto:janice.valdez@alumni.ubc.ca)

##### Purpose:

This study will look at student responses to an outreach program that combines opportunities for to participate in science activities and creative activities. This is a pilot study with the aim of better understanding these field trips and how they might encourage students in science. We aim to identify changes in students' perceptions of scientific creativity and their scientific identities; along with opportunities to find best practices for capturing student responses to the Science Creative Literacy Symposia (SCLS).

The study context is the Science Creative Literacy Symposia (SCLS), a field trip program hosted by the Michael Smith Laboratories at the University of British Columbia (UBC). The program invites students in Grades 4 - 7 to campus with the teachers for a day-long workshop that consists of scientific activities led by Science graduate students in the morning and creative



writing opportunities led by Fine Arts graduate students in the afternoon (note that some sessions may be either science or creative writing only). The current exploratory phase will be a mixed-methods study of student experiences in the program as it currently exists without any manipulation of the content or teaching strategies.

Participants will be asked open-ended questions to capture their *ideas* about themselves as scientific and creative people, their *understandings* of artistic and scientific creativity and any changes that may have occurred during their participation in the workshop. Other more numerically-based questions will address their understanding of science as a creative process, their developing performance of scientific creativity, their perceptions of themselves as scientifically creative and their resulting identification with science.

This study will help us understand how science and creativity come together with the SCLS program, and help to improve the design of activities like the SCLS. It is expected that the results of this study will add to the growing body of knowledge in science education on the value of activities that encourage scientific creativity, with the intention to help students understand science as a creative endeavour.

**Participation:**

In the next few weeks your child’s class will be attending field trip to the Michael Smith Laboratory at UBC. The field trip program, the Science Creative Literacy Symposia (SCLS) is part of your child’s regular science program as planned by their teacher. We are inviting all students who attend the SCLS program to participate in this research study.

Participants will be asked to answer a short questionnaire (taking approximately 10 minutes) before and after the workshop during their visit to the Michael Smith Laboratory at UBC, and research assistants will be observing and taking fields notes. Approximately one month after the workshop, a few select classes will be visited by research assistants who will conduct follow-up focus groups. These focus groups will be conducted at the school at a time that is convenient and minimally disruptive for the class. They will take approximately 10-15 minutes. The participating teacher for each selected class (if they consent) will also be interviewed about their motivation for engaging with the program, their perceptions of scientific creativity and any changes that they observe in their students as a result of participation in the program.

Data collection will include: a) pre-workshop and post-workshop questionnaires, b) copies of written works produced by students as part of the regular workshop, c) observational field notes taken during the workshops, and d) pre-workshop and post-workshop focus group interviews with a small number of classes.

Participation in this study is not mandatory for participation in the SCLS program. The study will only include and collect data from students that provided their assent and whose parents have consented for them to be to be part of the study. And children are welcome to decline to answer any of the questions or have any particular pieces of their work copied. The data collected during this study will be used to publish articles in academic journals and in other news and information forums, such as our research blog. It will also be used in presentations for teachers, researchers and other people who design and run science education programs.



Direct quotes may be used from your child's work or questionnaire but his or her name, image or any other personally identifying information will not be shared or recorded.

Your child's participation in this study is entirely voluntary. If you choose not to allow your child to participate in this study, your child's grades and relationships with the teacher, the school or with UBC and the SCLS program will not be affected in any way. You may withdraw your child from this study at any time, without any consequences, even if you sign this letter of consent. Your child's questionnaires and written work can be removed from the study up until a month after the field trip. At any stage in the study you may request clarification on any issue regarding this study.

**Confidentiality:**

By agreeing to participate, please be assured that:

- All data collected will be confidential with the principal investigator and co-investigators listed at the beginning of this form.
- Your child's name will not appear in any written documents. In addition any reference to your child's school will remain strictly confidential. We will use pseudonyms for all the names involved in this study. Research reports and published articles will not contain your child's name or any identifying features.
- All data will be kept in a locked space accessible only by the researchers.
- All data will be kept in computers and files protected with passwords.
- The questionnaires (both pre-and post-workshop) will be hosted on a secure Canadian survey site. All data will be kept on servers contained within Canada.
- You may review the the data collected that pertains to your child at any time.
- We will encourage all participants to refrain from disclosing the contents of focus group discussions outside the group; however, we cannot control what other participants do with the information discussed. The focus groups discussion will not, however, be personal or sensitive in nature.

**Contact:**

If you have any questions or desire further information about this study, please contact the principal investigator, **Dr. David Ng**, Phone number: **604 822 6264** E-mail: **db@mail.ubc.ca**

**Contact for complaints**

If you have any concerns or complaints about your child's rights and/or experiences as a research participant during this study, contact the Research Participant Complaint Line in the UBC Office of Research Ethics at 604-822-8598 or if long distance e-mail [RSIL@ors.ubc.ca](mailto:RSIL@ors.ubc.ca) or call toll free 1-877-822-8598

**Consent:**

If you are willing to permit your child to participate in this study please complete the consent form on the next page. You are welcome to keep pages 1-3 for your own reference.



**FOR PARENTS TO SIGN (Child Consent)**

**TO PARTICIPATE IN THE STUDY:**

**Promoting more authentic views of science and scientific identity through creativity**

**PLEASE RETURN THIS COPY OF THIS CONSENT FORM**

*Please check ONE of the boxes below, indicating your decision*

- I CONSENT** to my child’s participation in the above stated study and agree to the use of my child’s work. I have read the attached form and understand the nature of my child’s participation in this research study. With my consent I acknowledge receiving a copy of the study information.
- I DO NOT CONSENT** to my child’s participation in the research study activities described in the attached form.

**FOLLOW –UP INTERVIEWS**

As a part of the research project if your child’s school is selected we will invite your child to participate in one focus group interview at his/her school. The interviews will be conducted at school at a time convenient for the teacher and students.

- Please check ONE of the boxes below, indicating your decision*
- I CONSENT** my child’s participation in the focus group interview for the above stated project
  - I DO NOT CONSENT** to my child’s participation in the focus group interviews

**Child’s Name (please print):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Name (please print):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**(Please return this consent form to your child’s teacher Ms. /Mr. \_\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_ School who will forward the form to Dr. David Ng.**

**Thank you!**

**FOR STUDENTS TO SIGN (Assent)**



**TO PARTICIPATE IN THE STUDY:**

**Promoting more authentic views of science and scientific identity through creativity**

**PLEASE RETURN THIS COPY OF THIS ASSENT FORM**

*Please check **ONE** of the boxes below, indicating your decision*

- I AGREE (ASSENT)** to my participation in the above research study and agree to the use of my work. I understand the study activities explained by my parents/guardian and I understand how I will participate in this study. With my consent I confirm that I have also received a copy of the project information.
- I DO NOT AGREE (I DO NOT ASSENT)** to my participation in the study activities described in the attached form.

**FOLLOW –UP INTERVIEWS**

As a part of the research project if your school is selected we will invite you to participate in one focus group interview at your school. The interviews will be conducted at your school at a convenient time for the teacher and students.

*Please check **ONE** of the boxes below, indicating your decision*

- I AGREE (ASSENT)** to my participation in the focus group interview for the above stated project
- I DO NOT AGREE (I DO NOT ASSENT)** to my participation in the focus group interviews

Your name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Your Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please return this consent form to your teacher Ms. /Mr. \_\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_ School who will forward the form to Dr. David Ng.

**Thank you!**