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Grant McMillan, President

## **COCA Update on WorkSafeBC Activities #557 July 22, 2013**

### UBC Request for Input on Diesel Exhaust Exposure

A researcher from the University of British Columbia Department of Medicine (Respiratory Division) is requesting input from workers on their experience with diesel exhaust in the workplace.

Workers must be 19-65 years of age; exposed to diesel exhaust on a regular basis at their workplace; have worked for at least a year at their current position.

I am enclosing information on the study should you chose to make it available to your workers.

Hello,

**Are you exposed to diesel exhaust on a regular basis at your workplace?**

**Have you been employed at your current workplace for at least one year?**

If so, I am interested in understanding your experience with diesel exhaust at your workplace.

I am conducting this study with the University of British Columbia Respiratory Division. This study will only involve 30-45 minutes of your time and can be done over the phone or in-person.

There is minimal risk that your participation will adversely affect your relationship with your workplace and colleagues, as your identity and your work location are anonymous, and the data collected will not be linked individually to any participants.

As an incentive to participate in this study, I will offer you a chance at a prize in a draw. The prize is a \$100 gift certificate to any one of 3 places, selected by the winner: Starbucks, RONA, and Shoppers Drug Mart. As there are only 30 subjects in this study, there is a good chance of winning.

Please see the informed consent form for more information, and please email or phone me if you are interested in participating in the study and we can arrange a time for the interview, at your convenience. I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards,

Mandy Pui  
Lab Manager, MSc candidate  
The University of British Columbia  
Department of Medicine, Respiratory Division  
Phone: [604-875-4111](tel:604-875-4111) ext.66455  
Email: [dieselworkers@gmail.com](mailto:dieselworkers@gmail.com)

RESPIRATORY DIVISION  
THE LUNG CENTRE

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**UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA  
RESPIRATORY MEDICINE**

Vancouver Coastal  
**Health** Authority  
*North Shore/Coast Garibaldi, Vancouver & Richmond*

ENVIRONMENTAL AND  
OCCUPATIONAL LUNG  
DISEASES RESEARCH UNIT

R. Abboud, MD, FRCPC  
M. Brauer, ScD  
C. Carlsten, MD, MPH  
S. M. Kennedy, PhD  
S. Lam, MD, FRCPC  
M. Chan-Yeung, MB, FRCPC  
H. Ward, PhD

**UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**

**Study Title:** DETERMINING THE KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE, AND BEHAVIOUR OF WORKERS  
EXPOSED TO DIESEL EXHAUST AT THE WORKPLACE

**SUBJECT INFORMATION AND CONSENT FORM**

**Principal Investigator:** Chris Carlsten, MD MPH  
The University of British Columbia  
Department of Medicine, Respiratory Division  
Phone: 604-875-4122

**Research Assistant:** Mandy Pui, BSc  
The University of British Columbia  
Department of Medicine, Respiratory Division  
Phone: 604-875-4111 ext. 66455

**Contact Numbers:** If you have any concerns about your rights as a research subject and/or your experiences while participating in this study, contact the **Research Subject Information Line in the University of British Columbia Office of Research Services** by email at [RSIL@ors.ubc.ca](mailto:RSIL@ors.ubc.ca) or by phone at 604-822-8598.

**Funded by:** University of British Columbia

**INTRODUCTION**

You have been invited to participate in this research study because you are exposed to diesel exhaust at your workplace. Approximately 30 subjects will be participating in this study. This study involves only one interview with you at your workplace or another quiet and private area. Alternatively, the interview can be conducted over the telephone. You will be asked to dedicate about 30-45 minutes of your time for the entire study. The purpose of this consent form is to give you the information you will need to help you decide whether or not to take part in the study.

**PARTICIPATION**

Your participation is entirely voluntary, so it is up to you to decide whether or not to take part in this study. Before you decide, it is important for you to understand what the research involves. This consent form will tell you about the study, why the research is being done, what will happen to you during the study and the possible benefits, risks and discomforts.

If you wish to take part in the study, you will be asked to sign this form. If you do decide to take part in this study, you are still free to withdraw at any time and without giving any reasons for your decision. If you do not wish to take part, you do not have to provide any reason for your decision not to participate.

Please take time to read the following information carefully and to discuss it with your family, friends, and doctor before you decide.

### **PURPOSE OF THE STUDY**

The purpose of this research is to learn more about what workers who are exposed to diesel exhaust at the workplace know about the exposures, associated health effects, and mitigation strategies relating to diesel exhaust. A better understanding of what the workers know will help us identify knowledge gaps and misperceptions about exposure to diesel exhaust, determine societal and organization factors that influence how knowledge is transferred in an occupational context, and to determine more useful channels or pathways for health risk communication.

### **WHO IS CONDUCTING THE STUDY?**

The Respiratory Medicine Division, University of British Columbia, is conducting the study. This study is funded through University of British Columbia. Those funds are used to cover the costs for the investigators and/or the investigators' institution to conduct the study. The investigators have no financial interests in conducting this research study. You may request more information on the funding from the investigators.

### **WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?**

Healthy adults, aged between 19 and 65 years, who are exposed to diesel exhaust on a regular basis at their workplace. They have to have worked for at least one year at their current position. Typical work sectors include but are not limited to mining, construction, forestry, and transportation.

### **WHO SHOULD NOT PARTICIPATE?**

1. People who are not exposed to diesel exhaust at their workplace on a regular basis
2. People who are unwilling to participate in an interview.

### **STUDY PROCEDURES**

The study involves a 30-45 minute interview where you are asked open-ended questions about your experience with exposure to diesel exhaust, your thoughts on the health effects, protective measures and other mitigation strategies related to diesel exhaust exposure, and where you get your information on work-related health and safety. Your identity and your work location will be anonymous, but information about your job title, job description, and the industry in which you work will be collected. The audio from the interview is recorded and transcribed. Results will be compared and contrasted with data available in the health research literature. Results of interest will be published in scientific journals, disseminated in research conferences, and possibly to media, and organizations that care about workers' safety, such as WorkSafe BC.

### **POSSIBLE RISKS, STRESS, OR DISCOMFORT**

There is minimal risk that you will experience stress and discomfort as a result of participating in this study and the interview, as you will only be asked open-ended, unbiased questions regarding your normal work habits, and your current knowledge of occupational exposure. Keep in mind that you can choose what to disclose. Also, you are free to refuse to answer any of the questions that you are not comfortable answering. There is

minimal risk that your answers will adversely affect your relationship with your workplace and your colleagues, as your identity and your work location are anonymous, the data collected will be presented together, and data will not be individually linked to any participants.

### **BENEFITS OF THE STUDY**

There is no direct benefit to you for participating in this study. However, you will learn more about how you feel about the diesel exhaust that you are exposed to at your workplace. You can request for a summary of the study results at the end of this study for your reference.

As an incentive to participate in this study, we will offer you a chance at a prize in a draw. The signed consent form acts as the entry form to this draw. The prize is a \$100 gift certificate to any one of 3 places, selected by the winner: Starbucks, RONA, and Shoppers Drug Mart.

### **ALTERNATIVES TO TAKING PART IN THIS STUDY**

If you do not wish to participate in this study, you do not have to provide any reason for your decision not to participate nor will you lose the benefit of any medical care to which you are entitled or are presently receiving. You are still eligible to win the draw even if you withdraw from the study before the interview is complete.

### **CONFIDENTIALITY**

You should consider whether details that you provide when answering some of the questions could identify you.

Your confidentiality will be respected. However, research records and health or other source records identifying you may be inspected in the presence of the Investigator or his or her designate by representatives of Health Canada and the University of British Columbia Behavioural Research Ethics Board for the purpose of monitoring the research. No information or records that disclose your identity will be published without your consent, nor will any information or records that disclose your identity be removed or released without your consent unless required by law.

You will be assigned a unique study number as a subject in this study. Only this number will be used on any research-related information collected about you during the course of this study, so that your identity [i.e. your name or any other information that could identify you] as a subject in this study will be kept confidential. Information that contains your identity will remain only with the Principal Investigator and/or designate. The list that matches your name to the unique study number that is used on your research-related information will not be removed or released without your consent unless required by law.

Your rights to privacy are legally protected by federal and provincial laws that require safeguards to insure that your privacy is respected and also give you the right of access to the information about you that has been provided to the sponsor and, if need be, an opportunity to correct any errors in this information. Further details about these laws are available on request to your study doctor.

### **COMPENSATION FOR INJURY**

Signing this consent form in no way limits your legal rights against the sponsor, investigators, or anyone else, and you do not release the study doctors or participating institutions from their legal and professional responsibilities.

## CONSENT

This study has been explained to you and you have been given the chance to ask questions about taking part in this study. If you have questions you can ask Mandy Pui at 604-875-4111 ext. 66455 or Dr. Christopher Carlsten at 604-875-4729. You will be given a copy of this signed and dated consent form.

### Consent Form

- I have read and understood the subject information and consent form.
- I have had sufficient time to consider the information provided and to ask for advice.
- I have had the opportunity to ask questions and have had satisfactory response to my questions.
- I understand that all of the information collected will be kept confidential and that the result will only be used for scientific objectives.
- I understand that participation in this study is voluntary and that I am completely free to refuse to participate or to withdraw from this study at any time without changing in any way the quality of care that I receive.
- I understand that I am not waiving any of my legal rights as a result of signing this consent form.
- I have read this form and I freely consent to participate in this study.
- I have been told that I will receive a dated and signed copy of this form

Please initial on the appropriate line to indicate your decision:

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I want a summary of the study results at the end of the study, for my reference.
<input type="checkbox"/> No, I do not want a summary of the study results at the end of the study.

Please initial on the appropriate line to indicate your decision:

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I want to be contacted regarding future studies.
<input type="checkbox"/> No, I do not want to be contacted regarding future studies.

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**Printed Name of Subject**

**Signature**

**Date**

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**Printed Name of Person  
explaining the consent**

**Signature**

**Date**

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**Printed Name of Principal  
investigator/designated representative**

**Signature**

**Date**



# RESEARCH SUBJECTS NEEDED

To better understand the experience of workers exposed to diesel exhaust at their workplace

Requirements:

- 19-65 years of age
- Exposed to diesel exhaust on a regular basis at their workplace
- Have worked for at least a year at their current position

If you meet the study requirements, you will be asked to dedicate 30-45 minutes of your time for an interview of open-ended questions regarding your experience with exposure to diesel exhaust, associated health effects and prevention measures.

**Volunteers will be appropriately compensated for their time.**

If interested please call (604) 875-4111 ext. 66455 or email [dieselworkers@gmail.com](mailto:dieselworkers@gmail.com)

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