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## PARTICIPANT INFORMATION STATEMENT

### Researchers:

Mrs Ruth Pape – PhD Student Investigator  
Associate Professor Kelly Spuur – Primary Supervisor, PhD  
Dr Dana Al-Mousa – Co-supervisor, PhD

### INVITATION

You are invited to participate in a research study on the current practice in Australia for the selection of receptor angle in the mediolateral oblique (MLO) view of the breast and its impact on image quality.

The study is being conducted by Mrs Ruth Pape as part of her PhD candidature with the support from her supervisory team; Associate Professor Kelly Spuur and Dr Dana Al-Mousa from the School of Dentistry and Medical Sciences at the Charles Sturt University. Charles Sturt University is an Australian University, TEQSA Provider Identification: PRV12018. Charles Sturt University CRICOS Provider: 00005F

Before you decide whether or not you wish to participate in this study, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take the time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish.

### What is the purpose of this study?

This research will explore radiographers' knowledge and practice on the selection of the receptor angle for the MLO view through an online survey. We are interested in your knowledge and practices on how you select the receptor angle for the MLO view given the various body habitus (the thorax) to maximise image quality. We are also interested to understand how the body habitus (the thorax) impacts how much breast we see.

There are numerous publications and literature sources worldwide used to describe various positioning techniques for the CC view and MLO view. There is little adjustment with respect to the image receptor (IR) that can be made for the CC view to increase tissue inclusion; the MLO view can be managed by varying the angle of the IR. In the MLO view, selection of the angle of the IR is the initial step in the positioning process. The choice of mammography IR angulation on the MLO

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view of the breast depends entirely on the radiographers' professional practice. We want to understand the decision making process of radiographers and how they select the receptor angle when positioning for the MLO view, given the variation in body habitus, particularly the thorax to maximise image quality.

A better understanding of radiographers' knowledge and practice on the selection of receptor angle for the MLO view for various body habitus will support improved positioning practice and improved opportunities for breast cancer diagnosis. Dissemination of results will be through scientific conferences and seminars both in Australia and elsewhere and peer reviewed publication.

### **Why have I been invited to participate in this study?**

We are seeking radiographers practising mammography in both the diagnostic and screening settings in Australia to participate in this survey. As a current registered member with the Australian Society of Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy (ASMIRT), you receive the electronic newsletter e-blast and a direct email from the professional body, which is why you have received this invitation to participate in this study.

- If you are not currently practising mammography, then, you are not eligible to participate in this online survey.

### **What does this study involve?**

Participants will be able to complete a survey in SurveyMonkey between August 9<sup>th</sup> 2023 and September 30<sup>th</sup> 2023. If you agree to participate, you will be asked a series of questions about your practices relating to selection of receptor angle for the MLO view for various human body habitus (thorax) and its impact on image quality. The survey should take approximately 20-25 minutes to complete and your participation in the study is complete upon submission of the survey.

### **Are there risks and benefits to me in taking part in this study?**

There is low or negligible risk associated with this study and no cost aside from giving up your time as a participant. There are no direct benefits to individuals who participate in this study. There is no compensation for completing the survey.

### **How is this study being paid for?**

This study is not funded through an external organisation. However, as part of their PhD research, the student investigator is sponsored through the Australian Awards Scholarship (AAS) program. The AAS program will not have any input in the research results. However, the AAS program will receive a copy of the final research results in a written report.

### **Will taking part in this study (or travelling to) cost me anything, and will I be paid?**

Since the survey will be done online, there are no travel costs to participate in this study. You will require internet access the cost of which will need to be met by you.



### **What if I don't want to take part in this study?**

Participation in this research is entirely your choice. Whether or not you decide to participate, is your decision and will not disadvantage you. Only those who give their informed consent will be included in the project.

### **What if I participate and want to withdraw later?**

You are free to decline to participate or to withdraw from the research project at any stage without affecting your relationship with the researchers, ASMIRT or the Charles Sturt University, now or in the future. There are no consequences for withdrawing from the study at any time prior to completion and submission of the survey and you do not have to provide a reason if you choose to withdraw. Please note that the data entered into the SurveyMonkey questionnaire is de-identified, and it will not be possible to withdraw any data after it is submitted.

### **How will my confidentiality be protected?**

To participate in this study all participants will be required to complete and sign a consent form indicating that they are fully informed about the study and happy to be involved. There will be no impact on your relationship with the School of Dentistry and Medical Sciences if you choose to take part or decide not to. There will be no impact on your relationship with the Charles Sturt University if you choose to take part or decide not to.

The survey data is not re-identifiable and at no time will you be asked to provide any information that may personally identify you. Therefore, your responses will be confidential with access to the data in SurveyMonkey given only to the student investigator and primary supervisor via a username and password. SurveyMonkey's security and privacy policies that protect data can be viewed by clicking the links. The student investigator and primary supervisor will retain a copy of the data used for analysis for up to 5 years as per University policy for potential future comparison studies related to this topic.

Please be assured that any information provided by you for this research will be treated in the strictest confidence and you will not be identified in the report or publications resulting from this research.

You are free to discontinue your participation in this research at any time or to decline to answer a particular question or questions.

Should you feel upset at any point, you may like to discuss these feelings with your general practitioner (GP) or one of the following organisations:

- Lifeline – 13 11 14) or <https://www.lifeline.org.au>
- Beyond Blue – 1300 22 4636 or <https://www.beyondblue.org.au>

Information collected during the course of the research will be stored securely at the Charles Sturt University and destroyed in accordance with National Health and Medical Research Council's guidelines known as the *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research* (2007). Confidentiality will be maintained and no information which could lead to the identification of any individual will be released, unless required by law.

The data collected will be stored securely at the Charles Sturt University for a period of five years and destroyed in accordance with the Charles Sturt "Ownership and Data Retention Policy" and the



“Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research”. Digital files will be password protected and accessible only by researchers and staff involved in the project.

The research project will be conducted according to the NHMRC National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (see <https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/about-us/publications/national-statement-ethical-conduct-human-research-2007-updated-2018>).

### **What will happen to the information that I give you?**

If you decide to participate in this research project, the information gained from the survey will contribute to the body of knowledge on medical radiation science. This information will be used and presented in a way which protects your confidentiality. Individual participants will not be identified in any reports arising from the research.

The information will be used to inform the thesis to be submitted by Ruth Pape as a part of her Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) thesis. The research results will be published in peer-reviewed scientific journals and presented at conferences and seminars both in Australia and elsewhere. The written report will also be shared to the sponsors of my PhD program, Australian Awards Scholarships and Charles Sturt University. Results of this study will be made available via email to the participants upon request.

### **What should I do if I want to discuss this study further before deciding?**

If you would like further information, please contact the project supervisor below and a copy will be emailed to you when the study is completed.

#### **Associate Professor Kelly Spuur (Primary Supervisor)**

Associate Head of School Medical Radiation Science and Pharmacy

Head of Discipline Medical Radiation Science

School of Dentistry and Medical Sciences, Faculty of Science and Health

PhD (Usyd), GradCertUnivLearn&Teach, BapSc(MedImag), DipHSc(MedImag), FASMIRT

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### **Who should I contact if I have concerns about the conduct of this study?**

Charles Sturt University’s Human Research Ethics Committee has approved this project [Protocol number H23752]. If you have any complaints or reservations about the ethical conduct of this project, you may contact the Committee through the Research Integrity Unit via the following contact details:

The Presiding Officer  
Human Research Ethics Committee  
Research Integrity Unit



Locked Bag 588  
Wagga Wagga NSW 2678  
Phone: (02) 6933 4213  
Email: [ethics@csu.edu.au](mailto:ethics@csu.edu.au)

Any issues you raise will be treated in confidence and investigated thoroughly, and you will be informed of the outcome.

### **Conclusion**

Thank you for considering this invitation. If you wish to continue, please begin the survey below.

