**Eliminating the major Helminth Neglected Tropical Diseases from the Lower Mekong Basin**

**The Magic Glasses E-joint Research Program**

**Participant Information Sheet**

 **(Key Informant Interview - School Principal/Teachers)**

**Researcher:**

I (**name of the researcher**), representing the **Australian National University**, **Khon Kaen University, QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute,** **University of Queensland, Department of Health Cambodia** and **Department of Health Lao PDR**, would like to invite your child to participate in our study. However, before you make a decision, we would like you to read this information sheet, discuss it, ask questions and then tell us if you will join in this activity.

**Project Title:** Eliminating the Major Helminth Neglected Tropical Diseases from the Lower Mekong Basin

**General Outline of the Project:**

**Description and Methodology:**

(Placeholder - name of local partner agency in Cambodia, Thailand and Laos) and the Australian National University are conducting a pilot testing of a health education video (developed for use in school) on intestinal worms and liver flukes. Intestinal worms are a common cause of illness among schoolchildren and can lead to anaemia, malnourishment and impaired academic ability. Liver fluke infection on the other hand, is associated with liver (hepatobiliary) disease. The most serious consequence of OV infection however, is its role in the aetiology of cholangiocarcinoma (CCA), a highly fatal bile duct cancer.

The main strategy to control for these infections is through mass drug administration using deworming tablets. However, deworming does not prevent reinfection and needs to be repeated regularly. To try to improve the effects of deworming, a hygiene and health behaviour education video is being developed to show to children in this country. This video will educate children regarding the health effects of infections and the best ways to avoid these infections. This school education approach has been used previously in Vietnam, China and the Philippines and we have now developed a video culturally adapted for the lower Mekong region. This health education will be delivered in some school and not in others. We would like to evaluate the impact and acceptability of the video health education intervention. We are inviting you to take part in one of the activities.

**Participants:** We hope to invite approximately 4-5 schoolteachers for this activity.

**Use of Data and Feedback:** The information provided by your child will help us determine how effective the health education package in the control of intestinal worm infections and Ov among schoolchildren. Feedback will be given to the officials of both the Department of Health and most especially to the Department of Education for possible integration of the health promotion package in one of the subjects in elementary schools.

**Project Funding:** This research is funded by an e-Asia grant from the NHMRC.

**Participant Involvement:**

**Voluntary Participation & Withdrawal:** Your participation in this study is voluntary. You may also choose not to participate in this. Should you decide not to join in this activity, it will not affect your standing in the community nor your rights to any service from the health center.

**What does participation in the research entail?**

You are randomly chosen to participate in the Key Informant Interview. Should you agree to participate we will discuss about health practices and what you think about intestinal worms and Ov and how individual can get infected with them including your knowledge on health education related to Ov and STH.

**Location and Duration:** If you consent, the interview will take place at school. This should not take about forty to one hour of your time. We will also tape the interview to ensure that we will be able capture the things we have discussed

**Risks:**

We do not see any harm that will come to you if you will decide to participate in this activity. Should you feel uncomfortable about any of the questions asked of you, you need not answer them at any point if you so decide.

**Benefits:** There will be no direct benefit to you and we will also not provide any incentives. However, the information we will obtain from your child will help us determine how effective a health promotion package is in the control of intestinal worms among schoolchildren. Feedback will be given to the officials of both the Department of Health and most especially to the Department of Education for possible integration of the health promotion package in one of the subjects in grade 4.

**Confidentiality:**

The researchers in this project guarantee confidentiality of the data as far as the law allows. Only the study researchers will have access to the data you provided. Personal information will be stored separately from the rest of the information you provided to us. Any reports, which will be written using this project’s data will not contain any information that identifies you and any child as participants in this study. The ANU Privacy Policy is available at [https://policies.anu.edu.au/ppl/document/ANUP\_010007](https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fpolicies.anu.edu.au%2Fppl%2Fdocument%2FANUP_010007&data=05%7C01%7CMary.Mationg%40anu.edu.au%7C68144f5895124f60fd9b08da7e6dc44c%7Ce37d725cab5c46249ae5f0533e486437%7C0%7C0%7C637961307147491176%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=HZLAB0QPiqHdHngO%2B0zdzhTxjAVUC%2B2APrhpHNxUGlg%3D&reserved=0)

**Privacy Notice:**

Australian privacy rules require me to tell you how my University handles your private information, and you can ask me to give you more details of that or how you can find out what information we have about you and to fix it if it is wrong.

**Data Storage:**

**Where:** The data collected from you will be stored in an encrypted server at the Australian National University. Access will only be by the lead investigator.

**How long:** The data you provide will be stored for 5 years from the date of the data collection. Following that period, the de-identified data will be archived.

**Queries and Concerns:**

**Contact Details for More Information:** If there is anything you do not understand or if you want more detail of the study please contact the lead investigator, **Prof. Darren Gray at** Darren.gray@anu.edu.au **of the Australian National University or t**he local study team representative:

**CAMBODIA**

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**LAOS**

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**Ethics Committee Clearance:**

The ethical aspects of this research have been approved by the ANU Human Research Ethics Committee (Protocol 2022/507), The Laos National Ethics Committee for Health Research, Khon Kaen University Ethics Committee for Human Research and Cambodia National Ethics Committee for Health Research. If you have any concerns or complaints about how this research has been conducted, please contact:

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