

Title of Project: “Optometric Vision Care in the Pediatric Population”

**Faculty supervisor: Susan J. Leat, University of Waterloo, 519-888-4567 x 32040,
leat@uwaterloo.ca**

**Post-Doctoral Fellow: Kalpana Rose, University of Waterloo, 5198884567 x36760,
k3rose@uwaterloo.ca**

Introduction

You are invited to participate in an anonymous on-line survey that investigates the provision of vision care in the pediatric population. We anticipate that it will take about 10-15 minutes of your time.

Why is this research being done?

Despite studies that have demonstrated the prevalence of eye and vision disorders in children (e.g. 25% have an undiagnosed vision problem on entering school), few children between the ages of 0-4 years present for a routine comprehensive vision examination. The reason so few children receive professional eye care (e.g as compared to dental care) is uncertain. It is also unclear whether parents rely on information from pediatricians, family doctors, optometrists, or other health care workers. How are parents making decisions about the appropriate time for a routine eye examination and what information are they receiving? The purpose of this study is to investigate the timing of first eye exams recommended and provided by optometrists, and the provision of that care. We undertook a similar survey in 2007 and we are interested in investigating if there are any changes since that date. Since that time, programs to promote eye care for pre-school children have been established in some provinces e.g. the Eye See...Eye Learn program, and we will be able to study the impact. We are inviting you to take part in the current survey **whether or not** you participated in 2007.

What does this study involve if you decide to take part?

As a participant in this study, you will be asked to complete an online questionnaire regarding pediatric patients seen in your practice. Questions pertaining to your preferred pediatric practice management are included. In addition, professional background and practice profile questions are included to help us correlate the data received from all participants.

What are the possible risks and benefits of the study for me and/or society?

There are no personal benefits or adverse affects to participation. The study outcome may create awareness among the optometry community of the current status of pediatric optometric care and practice patterns, and may identify potential barriers and gaps in provision of pediatric eye care which may be overcome moving forward.

How will information be kept private?

This is an anonymous study. You will complete the survey through a secure online service called REDCap. This is held on a secure server in the Optometry building. Your identity will not be seen by either REDcap or the researchers of this study.

Electronic records will be retained for 7 years after the study is complete. Only the research team (Drs. Leat and Rose and other members of the research team who work directly on the project) will have access to the data. Data stored at the University of Waterloo study site will be secured in accordance with University of Waterloo policies available at <http://ist.uwaterloo.ca/security/policy/>.

It is anticipated that the results of this research project will be published or presented in a variety of forums.

Can I end my participation early?

Participation in this study is voluntary, anonymous, and will take approximately 10-15 minutes of your time. You may decline to answer any questions if you so wish or you may stop participating at any time before submitting your answers. However, once you finally submit the questionnaire, it is not possible for you to withdraw since the survey is anonymous.

Will I be paid for my participation in the study?

No.

This study has been reviewed and received ethics clearance through a University of Waterloo Research Ethics Committee (ORE#43032). If you have any questions for the committee contact the Chief Ethics Officer, Office of Research Ethics, at 1-519-888-4567 ext. 38535 or ore-ceo@uwaterloo.ca. Should you have any concerns about your participation in this study, please feel free to contact the study investigator, Dr. Susan Leat.

Contact information

Dr. Susan J. Leat, PhD, FCOptom, FAAO
Professor,
School of Optometry and Vision Science,
University of Waterloo,
Phone 519-888-4567 ext 30240
Email: leat@uwaterloo.ca

Dr. Kalpana Rose, PhD, FAAO
Post Doctoral Fellow,
School of Optometry and Vision Science,
University of Waterloo,
Phone 519-888-4567 ext 36760
Email: k3rose@uwaterloo.ca