

**HMRC-CREATE Program Evaluation
Letter of Information**

Dear Participant,

The “NSERC CREATE Training Program in Bone and Joint Health Technologies” now called HMRC-CREATE is a new academic endeavour at Queen’s University. The long-term objective of the research program is to develop a new generation of minimally invasive technologies for the long-term maintenance of joint health. Specifically, computer assisted techniques will be used to guide the design, fabrication, and implantation of patient-optimized, biologically enhanced materials at an early stage of degenerative disease. Projects are structured into three themes: Joint Health Assessment, Computer-assisted Reconstruction Technologies, and Tissue Repair Technologies.

The training program is designed to develop professional skills in trainees, such as yourself that complements your qualifications and technical skills, and provides multidisciplinary research skills that will facilitate transition to the workforce. The program goals address: (1) advanced technical knowledge in imaging, computer-assisted surgical guidance, and regenerative methods for tissue reconstruction; (2) clinical practices and health care delivery; (3) commercialization practices; (4) skills for working in multidisciplinary teams; and (5) communication skills. These are developed in an integrated program that includes a professional development course focused on best practices in key areas and a skills development course that places HMRC-CREATE trainees in a working team of medical, engineering, and scientific professionals.

To help us track and measure the success of the HMRC-CREATE training program, it is vital that we receive evaluative feedback from those individuals directly involved in the HMRC-CREATE program. Therefore, the purpose of the program evaluation is to assess needs, determine and report the perceived effectiveness and impact of the program, based on feedback from students, faculty, and program committee members. Accordingly, we invite you to participate in the HMRC-CREATE program evaluation. Your participation in the HMRC-CREATE program evaluation will include completion of an online questionnaire and on-going interviews (individually or in focus groups). The questionnaire will address the quality of the curriculum in terms of content, structure, and delivery. It is anticipated that it will take approximately 15 to 20 minutes to complete the online questionnaire. There are no expected risks associated with participating in this evaluation project.

Your responses will remain anonymous to the extent possible. Members of the HMRC-CREATE program evaluation team will have access to the evaluative data, but this information will be anonymous. Confidentiality cannot be guaranteed for discussions conducted within group settings (focus groups). However, all your input will be reported anonymously. Feedback will be aggregated and you will not be directly named in the evaluation report. Your participation in the HMRC-CREATE program evaluation is completely voluntary. You may decide to withdraw from the program evaluation at any time. Your status in the HMRC-CREATE program will in no way be impacted whether or not you choose to participate in the evaluation of the HMRC-CREATE program.

If you do decide to withdraw from this study, you must simply contact the HMRC-CREATE program evaluation team via e-mail (create.biomed@queensu.ca) to have your participation in the evaluation immediately discontinued. If have any questions, concerns, or complaints about the research ethics of this study, you may contact the Chair of the General Research Ethics Board at 613-533-6081 (chair.greb@queensu.ca).

Please note that this study has been granted clearance to the recommended principles of the Canadian ethics guidelines and Queen’s policies. Thank you for considering to participate in the HMRC-CREATE program evaluation.

Sincerely,

Dr. Denise Stockley
HMRC-CREATE Program Evaluation Team