

APPENDIX A - INFORMED CONSENT FORM: INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPANT



The Michener Institute for Applied Health Sciences

Can Alliance Networks Work? Examining the Evolution & Impacts of Alliance Portfolios In Healthcare.

Investigator:

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Sponsor:

The Michener Institute for Applied Health Sciences

Informed Consent:

You are being asked to consider participating in a research study. Research studies are done to gather information on a subject that is not well known. This form will explain the purpose of the study and what is being asked of you as a potential study participant. You may wish to discuss this study with your friends and family. Please take all the time you need to read this form carefully and ask any questions that you might have.

Introduction:

You are being asked to consider participating in this study because the creation of organisations ability to do new things is not well understood within the research community. The relationship between an organisations pursuit to do new things and its choice of alliance partners is even less understood. This research program aims to better appreciate how an organisation might enable the ability to do new things through an alliance with another firm.

Why is this study being done?

The purpose of this study is to explore and examine the role of a organisations alliance portfolio in the development of dynamic capabilities of innovation and commercialisation.

Research Questions:

- i) What role do alliance portfolios play in the development of dynamic capabilities within healthcare firms?
- ii) Do the resulting dynamic capabilities reside within and/or between firms?

Research Objectives:

- i. To explore the nature of the relationship between securing alliance partners that excel in the capabilities of innovation and/or commercialisation and the associated impact and transference to the hub/focal-firm (i.e. resource cognition);
- ii. To examine managers' perspectives of engagement within the alliance portfolio and the resulting benefits, costs and contributions of such involvement;
- iii. To examine the overall impact, and effectiveness of such alliance portfolios in building/providing/establishing the capabilities of innovation and commercialisation within the hub/focal-firm;
- iv. To explore if and how the complement of alliance partners change over time to support the vision/strategy of innovation and commercialisation within the hub/focal-firm, and specifically how past experience with alliance partners affect future partner selection (i.e. building of alliance competency and partner selection).

What will happen during this study?

Several participants within Michener will be invited to participate in a individual or focus group interview. Additionally, individuals from two external firms who Michener has and/or continues to collaborate with will also be invited to participate in this study. Participants will be asked a series of questions related to this alliance experience.

What will happen during the focus group?

Individuals who agree to participate in the focus group will attend a session with other individuals where they will be asked questions about their experiences as it relates to the research focus .

To assure accuracy in capturing responses, the focus group may be audio recorded. These audio recordings will be transcribed for analysis and presented in aggregate form. Individual students will not be identified by their names. Unique identifiers will be used to separate data for transcription purposes and assure confidentiality. Instructors will not have access to the audio recordings or the unique identifiers that link the data to individual students. Focus group data including audio recordings, transcripts and aggregate reports will be securely maintained accessible only to the research team and will be destroyed when these data are no longer needed.

How many people will take part in this focus group?

The number of individuals participating in a focus group can vary but is usually kept small to allow for discussion (e.g. 4-7 participants per focus group).

How many people will take part in this study and how long will it last?

This study will involve employees of the Michener Institute and where possible, representatives from two external organisations who have worked with Michener in an alliance capacity. The study is expected to last approximately 2-3 months in duration.

What are the responsibilities of study participants?

If you choose to participate in this study, you will be asked to reflect and answer a series of questions focused on your experience and perception of the nature of Michener's alliances, the progression, results, costs and benefits of such alliances.

Please note that respondents will remain anonymous, classified only through their respective organisation.

What are the risks/harms of participating in this study?

None Anticipated – Non Clinical Research Study.

What are the benefits of participating in this study?

You may or may not directly benefit from participating in this study. It is hoped that your participation in this study may benefit future individuals.

Can participation in this study end early?

The researcher could cancel the study before completion for a number of foreseen (e.g. lack of participation and related data; time demands; etc.) and unforeseen factors.

What are the costs of participating in this study?

The costs of participation are limited to the opportunity-cost associated the time involved with your interview.

Are participants paid to be in this study?

Participants will not be paid to participate in this study.

Are there any other alternatives?

Not Applicable to this research study.

Do the investigators have any conflicts of interest?

None to disclose.

How will the results of this research project be shared?

The candidate also intends to make available publically, a PDF version of the final dissertation for participant/public review/access.

Who else might need to know?

As the purpose of this research study is in pursuit of a Doctoral degree, the candidate will be submitting the results to the Edinburgh Business School Research Council for consideration/evaluation.

Rights of Study Participants:

1. You have the right to have this study, form and all information associated with the study explained to you and translated for you should you need it. You have the right to ask questions and have them answered to your satisfaction.
2. You have a right to be told about any new information that becomes available during the course of the study that might affect your willingness to continue to participate in the study.
3. You have the right to choose to participate in this study or not. If you choose to participate in this study, you may stop at any time, for any reason without prejudice.
4. Your personal information (information about you that identifies you as an individual) will be kept confidential and your identity will be protected. Only personal information for purposes related to this study will be collected. Your personal information will be collected under a unique study number and will be kept in a secure location. Only study personnel and individuals required by law (sponsor(s), monitor(s), auditor(s), Research Ethics Board, Regulatory Authorities) will have direct access to your personal information for purposes associated with the study. By agreeing to participate in this study, you agree to allow these authorised groups access to your personal information for study

related purposes. No information about who you are will be given to anyone or published without your permission unless required by law. You have the right to access, review and request changes to your personal information.

5. You have the right to request the withdrawal of data or human biological materials (if applicable) at any time during the study and will be informed of any limitations on the feasibility of this type of withdrawal prior to the study starting.
6. You have the right to compensation/treatment in the event that you become sick or injured as a direct result of this study.
7. You have the right to be informed of the results of this study when it is completed.
8. You have a right to receive a copy of this signed, dated consent document and all accompanying written information about the study prior to the study starting.
9. You do not give up any of your legal rights by signing this Informed Consent Document.

Contact information:

If you have any questions about this study or experience any study-related injuries you may contact:

Brad Niblett

Vice-President, Operations

416.596.3169

If you have any questions about participating in research, your rights as a research participant or ethical issues associated with this study you may contact:

Manager, Research

The Michener Institute for Applied Health Sciences



The Michener Institute for Applied Health Sciences

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Name of Participant: _____

By signing this consent form, I agree that:

- The research study has been explained to me and all my questions answered satisfactorily
- I understand what I will be asked to do to participate in this study
- I have been informed of the risks and benefits of participating in this study
- I have been informed of my rights as a research participant
- I agree to participate in this study

Name of participant

Signature

Date

Name of person obtaining
consent

Signature

Date

Investigator attestation

I acknowledge my responsibilities associated with carrying out this study including the rights of study participants and will conduct this study in accordance with all applicable laws, regulations, and guidelines for the ethical conduct of research.

Name of Investigator

Signature

Date



The Michener Institute for Applied Health Sciences

Assistance Declaration

Check here if not applicable

The participant was assisted during the consent process as follows:

- I have read information to the participant such as the consent form and study information documentation during the consent process. I believe that the study was accurately explained to the participant and the participant understood the information being given.

- I translated information to the participant during the consent process. I believe that the study was accurately explained to the participant and the participant understood the information being given.

Name of person assisting

Signature

Date