

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
Faculty of Education

August 15, 2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Interprofessional collaborative practice for practicing speech-language therapists in
Hong Kong**

We are Leung Wai Ying, Kelly and Tang Hei Yung, Blanche, Year 4 undergraduate students studying Bachelor of Science in Speech and Hearing Sciences in the Faculty of Education at the University of Hong Kong (HKU). We will conduct a research project on interprofessional collaborative practice under the supervision of Dr. Anita Wong and Dr. Elizabeth Barrett in the Academic Unit of Human Communication, Development, and Information Sciences, Faculty of Education at HKU. We would like to invite your association to participate in it. The purpose of this project is to (1) understand the views and knowledge level of practicing local speech-language therapists in different settings on interprofessional collaborative practice; (2) gain a general understanding of the current status of interprofessional collaborative practice in Hong Kong; and (3) propose necessary changes in the training programs of future professionals or additional support to practicing professionals. This study will be conducted between August 2021 and October 2021.

Associations that participate in this research project will act as a distribution channel to deliver and collect information, through the means of a questionnaire, from local practising speech-language therapists. The questionnaire will ask participants to describe their interprofessional collaborative practice experience, identify barriers and facilitators of implementing interprofessional collaborative practice in Hong Kong and give recommendations on implementing interprofessional collaborative practice. Correspondingly, an invitation email containing a link to the online questionnaire will be given to your association to distribute to the practising speech-language therapists to complete. It will take them 15-20 minutes to complete the questionnaire. The participation of your association and practising speech-language therapists in this study is voluntary. Your association and speech-language therapists can choose to withdraw from the study at any time without negative outcomes.

According to the University's policy on the ethical conduct of research, we are writing to ask your consent for these procedures. The information obtained from speech-language therapists will be handled with high confidentiality and anonymity. That means the association's name and the speech-language therapist's name will not be included in any parts of the questionnaire, as well as not used in the final written paper. The data collected will only be used for the paper and all the consent forms and questionnaires will be destroyed 3 years after completion of the study. All the data will be stored in a passcode-protected computer in the Academic Unit of Human Communication, Development, and Information Sciences, HKU. We will only have access to the data collected from the association and the speech-language therapists to protect the confidentiality of all the participants in this study.

If you understand the content mentioned above, please complete the reply slip below to

indicate whether your association will participate in this research. If concerns arise about this research, please feel free to contact the investigators Leung Wai Ying, Kelly (Tel: +852 64832001, kelly916@connect.hku.hk) or Tang Hei Yung, Blanche (Tel: +852 64329031, thy0323@connect.hku.hk). You may also contact our project supervisors Dr. Anita Wong (Tel: 3917-1593, amywong@hku.hk) or Dr. Elizabeth Ann Barrett (Tel: 3917-1574, barrett1@hku.hk) with any questions. If you want to know more about the rights as a research participant, please contact the Human Research Ethics Committee, HKU (Tel: 2241-5267).

Your help is very much appreciated.

Yours faithfully,
Kelly Leung and Blanche Tang
Students of BSc-Speech and Hearing Sciences
The University of Hong Kong

Reply Slip

I have read the information above and **agree/ disagree**** that my association will collaborate with, Year 4 undergraduate students of Bachelor of Science in Speech and Hearing Sciences at the University of Hong Kong for the Interprofessional collaborative practice for practicing speech-language therapists in Hong Kong.

(**Please delete as appropriate)

Association's Name: _____

Director of the Association's Name: _____

Director of the Association's Signature: _____

Date: _____