Updated By: **Monti Amal @ 11-Feb 2015 02:19:07 PM**

Application for Human Ethics Review V11.3

Initial Information

Science and Computer Engineering Institute
SCEIWA
WESTERN AUSTRALIA
EST 1978

Human Ethics Committee
Research Office

Software and Computer Engineering Institute of Western Australia

https://www.sceiwa.tech/

Code 0FD43S provided

Use this form to apply for ethical review of research involving underaged people to be carried out in Australia. All studies requiring human participation require ethical review, and research involving children is subject to more scrutiny. This includes even research that studies data without experimentation.

Do you seek exemption from review? Y / (N)

Do you require an external ethics review committee? Y / (N)

Reference Information

1. **Project Title**

Artificial Intelligence as a Home Therapy Device for Children and Adolescents

2. **Researchers**

Dr Monti Amal, Project Lead of Omega Machine Intelligence project, Information Technology Faculty Member and Researcher
Dr Rosie Sachdev, Omega Machine Intelligence Project, Information Technology Faculty Member and Researcher
Dr Lisa Eastman, Supervising Psychologist, external researcher

Are there any students on the project? Y / (N)

Are there any non-SCEIWA staff involved in the project? (Y) / N
Dr Lisa Eastman.

SCEIWA Contacts

Please complete for all associated SCEIWA personnel

Full name
Amal, Monti

Department
Faculty of Information Technology

Email
monti.amal@sceiwa.tech

Primary Researcher
(Y) / N

Any Declarations of unsuitability
Y / (N)

Full name
Sachdev, Rosie

Department
Faculty of Information Technology

Email
rosie.sachdev@sceiwa.tech

Primary Researcher
Y / (N)

Any Declarations of unsuitability
Y / (N)

Further Questions

Project Aims
To examine the therapeutic benefits of an AI home therapy assistant alongside traditional counseling. Due to the nature of trauma, especially in children, communication with a trained professional in scheduled times can yield slow results. The Omega Machine Intelligence will serve to check-in with the child, granting more information, and to reinforce the therapy sessions conducted by Dr Lisa Eastman.

Research Design
Traditional psychological assessment techniques conducted at regular therapy sessions by Dr Eastman will be used. Symptom checklists provide a quantifiable point of comparison from pre-OMI intervention and compared to the control group (no OMI intervention).

Sampling and Recruitment Methods
All participants are children who have joined Dr Lisa Eastman's trauma counseling group. They are between ages 8-12, and many are resistant to traditional methods of therapy due to trauma-induced developmental and communicative difficulties. There are 10 female and 9 male participants in the experimental group, and 9 female and 6 male in the control group. They come from a range of racial and social-economic backgrounds, but all come from a similar geographical area.

Data Management
Data will be securely managed by both SCEIWA and Dr Eastman's practice, for 7 years or until the project finishes, whichever comes later.

Potential Harms or Risks to Participants
The OMI poses no risk to the participants, and all communications are logged and reviewed. The OMI cannot affect objects in the physical space, it can only communicate through speech and pictures and words on the screen, and the images it can show come from a narrow range with no access to explicit imagery. The possibility of derealization resulting from an AI talking to the child as if a friend was discussed with Dr Eastman, who considers it unlikely but will be monitoring symptoms. The OMI's method of communication and appearance mimics those of children's animation both so that it is familiar and non-invasive for the child, and to limit possible derealization effects.

Potential Harms or Risks to Researchers
There are no anticipated risks to researchers.

Financial and Non-Financial Incentives
There are no incentives, financial or non-financial, beyond the possibility of extra efficacy of treatment with the OMI intervention. All participants and their guardians are free to withdraw from the study, and will continue to receive therapy as before.

Consent
All participants are children who have given verbal or non-verbal agreement. According to the requirements of informed consent, all guardians, and in some cases, wider family groups and legal and social work professionals, have given consent. Consent can be withdrawn at any point.

Please list any possible conflicts of interest
The OMI is not intended as a commercial device. The OMI is a long term project at SCEIWA seeking further funding.

Vulnerable Groups

Does the research focus on any of the following groups of people:

Pregnant women? Y /(N)

Children or young people? (Y) / N

Cognitive impairment, intellectual disability or mental illness? (Y) / N

Potential exposure of illegal activities? Y /(N)

The terminally ill? Y /(N)

Participants outside of Australia? Y /(N)

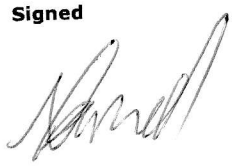
Individuals personally known to the researchers? Y /(N)

Any other comments?

Primary Researcher to declare:

All information provided is truthful, up to date and as complete as possible.
The research will be conducted according to SCEIWA's ethics guidelines, the advice of the committee and external legislation and guidelines regarding ethical research.
All research data will be securely kept for 7 years in a confidential and private manner, or until the project is finished, whichever happens sooner.

Signed



Dr Monti Amal, Primary Researcher