

**IRB Study #: 11-0977 Perceived Linkages Between Drinking Water Quality and Health**

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

My name is Hannah Spring. I'm a student researcher at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and my faculty advisor is Dr. Jamie Bartram. I was given your name and contact information by \_\_\_\_\_ with the \_\_\_\_\_. They said you might be willing to participate in a research study on the Perceived Linkages Between Drinking Water Quality and Health. This research study is being coordinated by the Water Institute at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and by the International Water Association.

The aim of this study is to better understand opinions in the water sector on the linkages between water quality and health. Approximately 180-300 policy makers and practitioners will participate in this research study.

Your participation in this research study is completely optional. After reading the description below, if you would like to participate, follow the link:

[https://uncodum.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV\\_5c1FTWLvQOgOtQE](https://uncodum.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_5c1FTWLvQOgOtQE) This 22 question survey will require approximately 20-30 minutes and may be completed in English, French and Spanish. At the beginning of the web-based survey, your rights as a research study participant will be fully explained to you and you can decide whether or not to consent to be a research participant.

If you have any questions about this study, please email Hannah Spring at [hspring@email.unc.edu](mailto:hspring@email.unc.edu).

Sincerely,

Hannah Spring

**Principal Investigator Contact Information:**

Hannah Spring; Phone: 001-336-406-3487; Email: [hspring@email.unc.edu](mailto:hspring@email.unc.edu)

**Faculty Advisor Contact Information:**

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## **IRB Study #: 11-0977 Perceived Linkages Between Drinking Water Quality and Health**

### **Purpose**

1. To better understand consumers', policy makers', and practitioners' perceived linkages<sup>1</sup> between drinking water quality and health<sup>2</sup>.
2. To inform the work of the International Water Association Task Force on Drinking Water Quality and Health.
3. To compare the priorities of consumers, researchers, practitioners and policy makers related to drinking water quality and health.

### **Methods**

Participants will be selected such that the survey represents the perceptions of stakeholders from approximately 12 countries. These countries will be selected based on contacts that researchers have and the clustering data collected by Crocker (2011). Information on consumer opinions will be collected indirectly from surveys where policy makers' and practitioners' tell what they believe consumer opinions to be. A total of 180-300 policy makers and practitioners will participate in this research study.

After receiving this one page summary, individuals will choose whether or not to participate in the survey. **Individuals participate through a web-based survey** that requires approximately 20-30 minutes to complete. The survey is offered in English, French and Spanish.

### **Topics addressed by the survey will include:**

- Direct causes of water-related illness
- Trends that make water-related illness more prevalent
- Aspects of the water and health sectors
- Consumer beliefs

### **Example of Questions:**

- How many years have you been working in this field?
- In your opinion, what are the leading causes of water-borne illness?
- In your opinion, what do consumers believe is needed in the water sector to better address illness related to water-borne disease?

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<sup>1</sup>Perceived linkages: Individual's opinions on the connections between drinking water quality and health

<sup>2</sup>Health: State of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity, (Preamble to the Constitution of the World Health Organization, 1948).

