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Wits Face Database: WFD

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PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET – FACIAL PHOTOGRAPHS AND CCTV RECORDINGS

STUDY TITLE: *"Reliability of forensic facial identification from CCTV recordings with implications for admissibility to court"*

Good day, my name is Nicholas Bacci and I am currently enrolled for a PhD degree at the University of the Witwatersrand. As part of the degree I am carrying out a research project on forensic facial image comparison. For this project, I will study ways to improve the process of forensic facial identification, especially from video obtained from closed circuit television (CCTV) systems. I will be comparing different parts of the face between photos and CCTV footage for similarities. This method is called morphological analysis. Although this method is very often used by the police, little is known on how reliable it is. The main possible benefit of this project is that it will help to correctly match a face to another face on different images. The results of the study will greatly assist in criminal investigations and prosecution as well as missing persons' identification. The study will also prevent wrongful imprisonment of innocent people. I would kindly like to invite you to participate in this study.

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

Photos of different faces and CCTV footage of the same faces will be used to compare the similarities and dissimilarities between the two sets of images. From this comparison, an analyst will decide whether the faces are a match or not. The aim of this process is to assess if the analyst is able to correctly identify the photo matching the CCTV footage from a random pool of photos. You are invited to participate as one of the photographed individuals.

PARTICIPANT INVOLVEMENT

If you decide to participate in this study, I will compare your CCTV recordings to your photos. I will do this by comparing the best matching (in terms of angle and position) faces to one of the photos that will be taken of you in one trial. Each trial will include a CCTV image to be compared to a pool of ten photos. Only one of them will be your photo. Nine extra photos will be added from social media based on people resembling your face. I will then try to match your CCTV recording to your photo in this pool of faces. I will only take five photos of your head and face on the university premises, and record CCTV footage as you walk past the set of CCTV cameras. You will also be asked to wear a jacket hiding your

clothes. The process will not take longer than ten minutes. Your participation in this study is voluntary. Refusal to participate will involve no penalty or loss of benefits. However, if you decide to participate, please be informed that there will not be any personal financial gain or academic benefits. You are free to withdraw from this study at any time without stating a reason. If you decide to withdraw after the photos and recordings have been taken, your photos and CCTV footage will immediately be deleted and there will be no penalty.

RISKS AND BENEFITS

There are no risks or side effects involved in this study. You will not benefit directly.

DATABASE DEVELOPMENT

In the time of taking your photos and recordings, we would also like to create a database of these images, with your consent. This database will be only used for further research into the topic. It will be assigned a curator from the School of Anatomical Sciences, and will be under the careful watch of the Collections Committee of the School and the curator. No publication or sharing of any of your information will occur at any point throughout the existence of the database, unless the researcher working on the study asks you for further permission, through a re-consent form. You may also decide to participate in the study, but to be excluded from the database if you so desire, at no penalty.

CONFIDENTIALITY

All the information gained during the course of this study is strictly confidential. Your name and contact details will remain confidential with only the photographer and then the primary supervisor (Dr N Briers) having access. Your photographs and CCTV footage will be awarded a number. In effect, your personal details will not be linked to any of your photographic material. We require contact details in case we find it necessary to use your photograph in scientific journals or presentations. In this case, you will need to go through a re-consent process, signing an additional form consenting to publication of your photograph. Your photos will only be published with your permission and you may refuse publication without stating a reason and without any consequences or penalties. No information that could identify you would be used in the thesis or publication, such as name and contact details. The photographer assisting with the study will see your face and details but will not be further involved in the study. A research assistant that will put the photos together into face pools and code the image names, will see your face but will not receive any of your

personal information. Once arranged, the folders containing your photos and recordings will be password protected to safeguard your facial and personal information. Your personal information will be kept secure by the primary supervisor stored on an external hard drive as a back-up and her personal computer, both of which will be safely locked away in her office in the School of Anatomical Sciences, which is alarm protected. The image data will also be password protected and safely stored in the back-up external hard drive and on the personal computers of the primary supervisor and the primary investigator. Two analysts related to the university, including me, will see your photograph as part of the face pools, but will not be given any information about you. I have purposefully excluded myself and the other analyst from taking your photos or information to prevent bias on my later recognition of your face. However, I have chosen the geographical and social area of main campus in order to limit accidental recognition by myself or the other analyst. The results of this study will be reported in a thesis and made available to my supervisor and other lecturers in the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University, uploaded to the electronic thesis and dissertation database and may be published in conference presentations and journals.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me on 082-457-0843 or my Supervisor, Dr Nanette Briers, on 082-847-4459. To report any complaints or problems, please contact the Chair of the Human Research Ethics Committee, Professor Cleaton-Jones on 011-717-2301 or the Research Administrator, Ms Zanele Ndlovu on 011-717-2700. If you would like, a summary of the research will be made available to you. Thank you for your consideration to participate in this study.