

## INFORMATION SHEET FOR EXEMPT RESEARCH

The researcher in charge of this project is called the "Principal Investigator." Her name is Dr. Belinda Anderson. You can reach Dr. Anderson at:  
**163 Williams St, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor**  
**New York, NY 10038**  
**917 971 8032**

For questions about the research study, or if you believe you have an injury, contact the Principal Investigator or the IRB.

Support for this research study is provided by  
**The National Institutes of Health, National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health.**

The Institutional Review Board (IRB) of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine and Montefiore Medical Center has approved this research study. The IRB #2020-12556 is in the stamp in the upper right hand corner. If you have questions regarding your rights as a research subject you may contact the IRB office at 718-430-2253, by e-mail at [irb@einstein.yu.edu](mailto:irb@einstein.yu.edu), or by mail:

Einstein IRB  
Albert Einstein College of Medicine  
1300 Morris Park Ave., Belfer Bldg #1002  
Bronx, New York 10461

We invite you to participate in a research study that is aimed at examining the critical thinking process that licensed acupuncturists in the US used to prescribe Chinese herbs for patients with symptoms that may have been related to COVID-19. You are being invited to participate because you are a licensed acupuncturist who has prescribed herbs for patients with symptoms that may be related to COVID-19. You will be one of about approximately 50 people who will be participating in this study.

If you join the study, you will be invited to complete a survey. You have a choice about being in this study. If you decide to take part, you are free to stop participating at any time without giving a reason. You may feel uncomfortable answering survey questions about evidence informed practice. You can choose not to answer questions that make you feel uncomfortable. Possible discomforts or risks include discomfort of answering survey questions. There may be risks the researchers have not thought of.

**Your consent to participate in this study will be registered by undertaking this survey.** You will not receive any payment or other compensation for taking part in this study.

It will not cost you anything to be in this study, and you will not experience any direct benefit personally from participating. However, we hope you will participate because the study will generate important information about evidence informed practice and may lead to a better understanding of the critical thinking process that acupuncturists use to devise treatment strategies.

Every effort will be made to protect your privacy and confidentiality by anonymous survey collection. Dr. Anderson will not know the identity of individual participants. The surveys will be stored on a secure server and only accessible to Dr. Anderson and her research team.

### **Certificate of Confidentiality**

As a way to protect your privacy, we have obtained a Certificate of Confidentiality from the National Institutes of Health, which is funding this study. If information from this study were requested or subpoenaed by government agencies or the courts, we would use the Certificate to attempt to legally refuse to provide that information. These requests are rare – in only a few cases did researchers have to use the Certificate, and it was honored most of the time, but not

every time. There are several kinds of situations to which the Certificate does not apply. For example, we are still required to report child abuse and some diseases, and we must make data available to the government for review or evaluation of our research. The Certificate does not prevent you or a member of your family from voluntarily sharing information. Similarly, if an insurer, employer, or other person obtains your written consent to receive research information, then the researchers may not use the Certificate to withhold that information.

If you have questions, you can contact **Dr. Belinda (Beau) Anderson** ([banderson2@pace.edu](mailto:banderson2@pace.edu); 917 971 8032).

You may have questions about your rights as someone in this study. If you have questions, you can call the Einstein Institutional Review Board. Their number is 718-430-2237.