Dear Colleague

My name is Ann Young and I am currently a post graduate student for the Master of Science (Intensive Care Nursing) at the University of the Witwatersrand, Department of Nursing Education. I would like to conduct a research project on “Critical care nurses opinions of continuous professional development”. The purpose of this study is to explore and describe critical care nurses opinions regarding CPD, the current extent of their participation in CPD programs and their perceived barriers to CPD programs.

I would like to invite you as an expert in the field, to participate on a panel to determine the validity and reliability of the measuring instrument. The first phase is a study in which the panel of experts in the field of critical care nursing will initially validate the research instrument. The validation will be rating of the instruments questions by using a four point Likert scale, to determine if the questions are relevant and represent the critical factors for critical care nursing.

Your participation in this validation process is entirely voluntarily. As I will need to contact you, I would kindly request that you provide your personal details on the checklist that is attached. As you are an acknowledged expert in the area being studied, you will appreciate that your anonymity may be compromised. In order to ensure your confidentiality, I undertake to ensure that no identification of your personal information will be given in reporting on your opinions. If you consent to participate as an expert on the panel, please complete the attached consent form and return it to me either electronically or by fax.

I appreciate that you will not derive any benefit from participation in this study. However, it is foreseen that the outcome of the research may provide for a point of departure for the development of a CPD program for critical care nurses. It is expected that critical care nurses will clearly identify their specific CPD needs as a nursing speciality and as individuals, which will in turn enhance quality ICU patient care.

Approval for this study and it’s procedures has been obtained from the relevant persons and research committees of the University of the Witwatersrand.

Thank you for taking the time to read this information letter. Should you require any further information regarding this study or your rights as a study participant, you are welcome to contact me at the contact details as below.

Kind regards

Ann Young

Date: __________________________

Contact:

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