



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## Interview on the Organization of Scientific Labs (Paid, Voluntary, and Anonymous)

This document outlines the Frequently Asked Questions for SLMP.

If you would like to sign up to participate, please visit [labsmanagement.org/signup](https://labsmanagement.org/signup).

### **Why am I being invited to take part in a research study?**

We invite you to take part in this research study if you are a post-doc research at a major U.S. research institution.

### **Who is the team behind SLMP?**

We are a team of social scientists who are particularly interested in how management, communication, and collaboration practices differ across academic laboratories and what could be done to improve them. Our team includes a number of junior and senior researchers from the following institutions: Cornell University, Dartmouth College, Harvard University, London School of Economics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Stanford University, and University of California at Berkeley.

### **Why is this research being done?**

The primary and first objective is to document how scientific labs are run and the characteristics of the academic research workforce in these labs.

### **What is the structure of the SLMP study, how long will it last, and what will I need to do?**

At the first instance, you will be asked to sit for a 1-1.5hr interview with a member of the SLMP team. The interview is completely confidential and will include only questions about the day-to-day routine of your lab. This interview is compensated at the rate of \$50/hr (so up to \$75/interview). This is to establish a baseline and as such will be the longest commitment.

After this baseline you may be invited to join the longer-run update interviews portion of the project, which would involve shorter interviews of approximately 30 minutes every couple of months at the same compensation rate. After a few months from enrollment, a subset of participants will be invited to apply to participate in the managerial training program that will take place locally. Further details on this program can be found below.



### **How will compensation be paid?**

You will be compensated at the rate of \$50/hour for participating in the interviews.

### **If I take part in this research, how will my privacy be protected? What happens to the information you collect?**

To protect your confidentiality, access to response data will be restricted to members of the research team with approved data security protocols in place, and identifiable data will only be stored as approved by our institutions and separate from your responses. Your identifier information will only be used for invitations to future research studies on this topic (such as the management training program noted above). Your lab's identifier information will be used to link to your lab's external publication records, but kept separate and suitable anonymized in the full stored dataset.

### **How many interviews will I have to do for SLMP?**

At a first instance the only commitment is the first 1-1.5h interview. If you choose to engage with the longer-run project, you would complete another 10 interviews approximately every 2 months for the duration of the study.

### **When will the interviews take place?**

The first interview would be scheduled at your convenience after you sign up. The following interview would take place approximately every 2 months from the start of the study for about 2 years. The interview team will work with you to find times that work in your schedule to interview you and it is very flexible!

### **How long will I be in the study for?**

The first interview is a commitment of 1-1.5 hours. If you choose to participate in the longer-run version of the study it will last approximately 2 years.

### **What if I'm leaving my post-doc position before the study ends? What if I'm not planning to stay in academia?**

You are still eligible to participate in the first longer interview as well as the longer-run shorter interviews and the I2D2 workshop even if you leave your post-doc position after the first interview, and also if you are not planning to stay in academia.

### **Are non-US citizens eligible for this program?**

Absolutely! As long as you are a post-doc at the time of the first interview, you are eligible to be in these studies!

### **What is the I2D2 Workshop?**





The I2D2 workshop is a program designed to help improve your ability to manage your research. It will be an in-person, 2-day workshop where business school professors will provide science-specific management training to help you and your labs.

**What should I know about research studies in general?**

Whether or not you take part is up to you. Your participation is completely voluntary and you can choose to withdraw *at any time*. Your refusal to participate or withdrawal mid-project will not result in any consequences or any loss of benefits that you are otherwise entitled to receive.

**What happens if I say yes, but I change my mind later?**

You can leave the study at any time; we completely understand – it will not be held against you.

**Will being in this study help me in any way?**

Other than the honorarium for participation, other possible benefits to you or others include the fact that our results will be useful to policymakers and administrators who design science policies and the rules that govern research institutions. If you participate in the I2D2 workshop, you may also learn helpful skills and tools that can help with the development of your science and management practices.