**Enschede, date…..**

**Information brochure Department DD**

*Dear reader,*

*In this letter, we would like to inform you about the research you have applied to participate in. The experiment will take place on dd-mm-yy, in room xxx of the xxx building. In the proposed research, entitled “The influence of emotion on processing pain stimuli”, brain activity and heart rate are measured, pictures are presented on a screen and pain stimuli are administered at certain moments. The aim of the research is to establish whether the processing of pain stimuli is influenced by an individual's particular emotional state at the time. Is the pain stimulus for instance more painful if you have a simultaneous association with pain, and is the opposite true in the case of a positive emotional state. Moreover, can we also localize these effects in the brain? The research could provide important clues to the way in which pain is processed in the brain and indicate possible alternatives to heavy painkillers in combatting pain. In the research, there are a number of important aspects which you should be aware of.*

*First, since physiological measurements are made which can provide information about the functioning of your brain and heart, it is in principle possible to discover specific abnormalities in the EEG or ECG (this occurs very seldom in fact). In such cases, you will be informed about this by the researcher and your general practitioner will be notified. The address details of your general practitioner should thus be made available at the start of the research. If you object to this, you may not participate in the research. You should realize that the research data obtained will not be scrutinized from a medical perspective. Therefore participation in the research cannot be regarded as a medical test.*

*Second, in order to register the EEG, use is made of electrodes fitted into a kind of bathing cap placed on the head which record the electrical activity of the brain. In addition, a number of loose electrodes are placed around the eyes and on the collar bone to record eye movements and register the heart rate. Attaching the electrodes to the head will make your hair sticky but after the experiment you can simply wash it out. It is therefore a good idea to bring a towel and also some shampoo.*

*Third, as a subject in the research, you will be confronted with a number of pictures to induce a particular emotional state. One category of pictures is emotionally neutral, another is positive, and a third is negative. In the second category, the pictures used include sexually tinted images whilst in the third category, pictures include images of a needle being inserted into an arm or a leg.*

*Fourth, in addition to the pictures, electric stimuli are regularly administered which in some cases can be experienced as relatively painful. The stimuli are administered via electrodes placed on the left forearm. You determine the strength of these stimuli yourself before the start of the research. These stimulus electrodes can be removed quite simply (even by yourself) with one single movement. It is also relevant for you to know that the setup of all the equipment is completely safe, and that the researcher has plenty of experience with this setup and these kinds of stimuli.*

*Fifth, for participation in the experiment it is important that you should not have any history of psychiatric or medical problems, that you are not taking any medication, drugs or excessive amounts of alcohol, and that you have good hearing and sight. Furthermore, you can decide to stop at any point in the course of the experiment without this having any consequences for yourself and without giving any reasons. Any payments ‘earned’ up until this point will be paid out (in proportion to the duration of participation. In addition, you can still decide at the end of the research and up to 24 hours thereafter, that your data may not be included in the research after all. Other relevant aspects are that your data will be handled in a confidential manner, the anonymity of your data is guaranteed and will never be disclosed to third parties without your permission.*

*Finally, it is important not to smoke or drink coffee for 1 hour before the experiment and not to have alcohol or drugs for 24 hours prior to the experiment. The use of hairspray, wax or make-up is not advisable because this makes it difficult to take the measurements. Besides this, we advise you to wash your hair on the day of the experiment so that the electrode impedance can be easily increased to an acceptable level.*

*The experiment lasts for a maximum of 4 consecutive hours and you will receive a remuneration of € …. It is important to know that most of the subjects participating in similar experiments find it very interesting. You are introduced to a different type of research than usual and you can even watch your own brain in action online as well as the extent to which this activity is determined by opening and closing your eyes. At the end of the entire research, you may, if you so wish, be informed about the results obtained by means of a debriefing.*

*Yours sincerely,*

*Coordinator: Dr. NN…Department xx, xx building, Faculty of xxx University of Twente Tel: +31 (0)53 489…. email:*

*….. Research leader/Research assistant: …….Tel:….. email:…………..*