

## Informed consent - #Scispends survey

### Purpose of the Study:

This is a study conducted by Dr. Edward Hind (independent researcher) and Dr. Brett Favaro (Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's NL). Our purpose is to examine how much of their own personal money scientists spend on their research programs, and to compare these values across stage of career.

Please only take this survey if you consider yourself a scientist or researcher. The stage of your career is not important. We would like scientists from undergraduates to retired scientists to take this survey. Please do not take this survey if you are aged under 18.

Please only fill out the survey once per person. This survey will be open until 30 June, 2015.

Please input all cash values in US Dollars

### What will be done:

You will complete a survey, which will take about 15 minutes to complete. The survey focuses primarily on how much money you have spent on a variety of cost categories common to researchers. We will also ask for some demographic information so that we can describe the general traits of individuals who participated in the study, their career stage, and what industries and disciplines they conduct their work in.

### Benefits of this Study:

You will be contributing to an understanding of how individual researchers subsidize research programs and advance through their careers using their own personal funds. We will disseminate the results as a contribution to a major scientific journal.

### Risks or discomforts:

No risks or discomforts are anticipated from taking part in this study. If you decide to quit at any time before you have finished the questionnaire, your answers will NOT be recorded.

### Confidentiality:

Your responses will not bear any personally-identifiable information. We will NOT know your IP address when you respond to the Internet survey, nor will we know your name or institution. The only geographical information we will collect is the country in which you reside, and the country in which your employer is based.

We do plan to release the full survey results with our publication - again, these results will bear no information that make it personally identifiable. We also reserve the right to publish excerpts from the final text-based question asking whether you have additional comments about science expenditures that are not captured by our survey.

### Decision to quit at any time:

Your participation is voluntary; you are free to withdraw your participation from this study at any time. If you do not want to continue, you can simply leave this website. If you do not click on the "submit" button at the end of the survey, your answers and participation will not be recorded.

### How the findings will be used:

The results of the study will be used for scholarly purposes only. The results from the study may be published at scientific conferences and in scientific journals.

### Contact information:

If you have concerns or questions about this study, please contact [scispends@gmail.com](mailto:scispends@gmail.com), or either of the researchers directly via Dr. Edward Hind (e.hind (at) [outlook.com](mailto:outlook.com)) or Dr. Brett Favaro (brett.favaro (at) [mi.mun.ca](mailto:mi.mun.ca)).

By beginning the survey, you acknowledge that you have read this information and agree to

participate in this research, with the knowledge that you are free to withdraw your participation at any time without penalty.

Google's privacy policy:

The on-line survey company, Google, hosting this survey is located in the United States. The US Patriot Act allows authorities to access the records of internet service providers. Therefore, anonymity and confidentiality cannot be guaranteed. If you choose to participate in this survey, you understand that your responses to the survey questions will be stored and may be accessed in the US. The security and privacy policy for the web survey company can be found at the following link: <http://www.google.com/policies/privacy/>

Consent:

By completing this survey/questionnaire you agree that:

- You have read the information about the research.
- You have been advised that you may ask questions about this study and receive answers prior to continuing.
- You are satisfied that any questions you had have been addressed.
- You understand what the study is about and what you will be doing.
- You understand that you are free to withdraw participation from the study by closing your browser window or navigating away from this page, without having to give a reason and that doing so will not affect you now or in the future.
- You understand that this data is being collected anonymously and therefore, once you submit this survey your data cannot be removed.

By consenting to this online survey, you do not give up your legal rights and do not release the researchers from their professional responsibilities.

The proposal for this research has been reviewed by the Interdisciplinary Committee on Ethics in Human Research and found to be in compliance with Memorial University's ethics policy. If you have ethical concerns about the research, such as the way you have been treated or your rights as a participant, you may contact the Chairperson of the ICEHR at [icehr@mun.ca](mailto:icehr@mun.ca) or by telephone at 709-864-2861.

Please retain a copy of this consent information for your records.

Completing this survey constitutes consent and implies your agreement to the above statements.

\* Required

## #Scispends survey

Please only take this survey if you consider yourself a scientist or researcher. The stage of your career is not important. We would like scientists from undergraduates to retired scientists to take this survey.

Please only fill out the survey once per person.

Please input all cash values in US Dollars. For your convenience, here is a currency converter: <https://www.google.com/finance/converter>

**1. Age \***

Mark only one oval.

- 18-29
- 30-39
- 40-49
- 50-59
- 60-69
- 70-79
- 80+

**2. Gender \***

Mark only one oval.

- Male
- Female
- Other

**3. Employment status \***

Check all that have applied at any time during the last 12 months

Check all that apply.

- Undergraduate
- Scientific internship
- Master's student
- Doctoral student
- Postdoctoral researcher
- Adjunct professor or lecturer
- Early-career researcher (Assistant prof, lecturer, research scientist, etc)
- Mid-career researcher (Associate prof, senior lecturer, research scientist, etc)
- Senior career researcher (Professor, reader, research scientist, etc.)
- Unemployed scientist
- Retired scientist
- Employed in non-science job
- Self-employed (e.g. consultant, freelance scientist)
- Other: .....

**4. Category of employer \***

Mark only one oval.

- Academia
- Government
- Non-governmental organization
- Private sector (e.g. consultancy, researcher at a corporation)
- Other: .....

**5. What is your broad research discipline? \***

Mark only one oval.

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Medical research
- Social sciences
- Engineering
- Other: .....

**6. How many years have you been in your current position \***

If less than a year, give a decimal value (e.g. 6 months = 0.5)

.....

**7. Country in which current employer is situated \****Mark only one oval.*

- Afghanistan
- Albania
- Algeria
- American Samoa
- Andorra
- Angola
- Anguilla
- Antigua and Barbuda
- Argentina
- Armenia
- Aruba
- Australia
- Austria
- Azerbaijan
- Bahamas, The
- Bahrain
- Bangladesh
- Barbados
- Belarus
- Belgium
- Belize
- Benin
- Bermuda
- Bhutan
- Bolivia
- Bosnia
- Botswana
- Bougainville
- Brazil
- British Indian Ocean
- British Virgin Islands
- Brunei
- Bulgaria
- Burkina Faso
- Burundi

- Cambodia
- Cameroon
- Canada
- Cape Verde Islands
- Cayman Islands
- Central African Republic
- Chad
- Chile
- China, Hong Kong
- China, Macau
- China, People's Republic
- China, Taiwan
- Colombia
- Comoros
- Congo, Democratic Republic of
- Congo, Republic of
- Cook Islands
- Costa Rica
- Cote d'Ivoire
- Croatia
- Cuba
- Cyprus Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Djibouti
- Dominica
- Dominican Republic
- Ecuador
- Egypt
- El Salvador
- Equatorial Guinea
- Eritrea
- Estonia
- Ethiopia
- Faeroe Islands
- Falkland Islands
- Federated States of Micronesia
- Fiji

- Finland
- France
- French Guiana
- French Polynesia
- Gabon
- Gambia, The
- Georgia
- Germany
- Ghana
- Gibraltar
- Greece
- Greenland
- Grenada
- Guadeloupe
- Guam
- Guatemala
- Guinea
- Guinea-Bissau
- Guyana
- Haiti
- Holy See (Vatican City State)
- Honduras
- Hungary
- Iceland
- India
- Indonesia
- Iran
- Iraq
- Ireland
- Israel
- Italy
- Jamaica
- Japan
- Jordan
- Kazakhstan
- Kenya
- Kiribati

- Korea, Democratic People's Rep
- Korea, Republic of
- Kosovo
- Kuwait Kyrgyzstan
- Laos
- Latvia
- Lebanon
- Lesotho
- Liberia
- Libya
- Liechtenstein
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Macedonia
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Malaysia
- Maldives
- Mali
- Malta
- Martinique
- Mauritania
- Mauritius
- Mayotte
- Mexico
- Moldova
- Monaco
- Mongolia
- Montenegro
- Montserrat
- Morocco Mozambique
- Myanmar
- Namibia
- Nauru
- Nepal
- Netherlands
- Netherlands Antilles



- New Caledonia
- New Zealand
- Nicaragua
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Norway
- Oman
- Pakistan
- Palestine
- Panama
- Papua New Guinea
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Philippines
- Poland
- Portugal
- Puerto Rico
- Qatar
- Réunion
- Romania
- Russia
- Rwanda Saint Barthelemy
- Saint Helena
- Saint Kitts & Nevis
- Saint Lucia
- Saint Martin
- Saint Pierre & Miquelon
- Saint Vincent
- Samoa
- San Marino
- Sao Tomé & Príncipe
- Saudi Arabia
- Senegal
- Serbia
- Seychelles
- Sierra Leone
- Singapore

- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Solomon Islands
- Somalia
- South Africa
- Spain
- Sri Lanka
- Sudan
- Suriname
- Swaziland
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Syria
- Tajikistan
- Tanzania
- Thailand
- Timor Leste
- Togo
- Tokelau Islands
- Tonga
- Trinidad & Tobago
- Tunisia
- Turkey
- Turkmenistan
- Turks & Caicos Islands
- Tuvalu
- Uganda
- Ukraine
- United Arab Emirates
- United Kingdom of GB & NI
- United States of America
- Uruguay
- US Virgin Islands
- Uzbekistan
- Vanuatu
- Venezuela
- Vietnam

- Wallis & Futuna Islands
- Yemen
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

**8. Country in which you are currently residing \****Mark only one oval.*

- Afghanistan
- Albania
- Algeria
- American Samoa
- Andorra
- Angola
- Anguilla
- Antigua and Barbuda
- Argentina
- Armenia
- Aruba
- Australia
- Austria
- Azerbaijan
- Bahamas, The
- Bahrain
- Bangladesh
- Barbados
- Belarus
- Belgium
- Belize
- Benin
- Bermuda
- Bhutan
- Bolivia
- Bosnia
- Botswana
- Bougainville
- Brazil
- British Indian Ocean
- British Virgin Islands
- Brunei
- Bulgaria
- Burkina Faso
- Burundi

- Cambodia
- Cameroon
- Canada
- Cape Verde Islands
- Cayman Islands
- Central African Republic
- Chad
- Chile
- China, Hong Kong
- China, Macau
- China, People's Republic
- China, Taiwan
- Colombia
- Comoros
- Congo, Democratic Republic of
- Congo, Republic of
- Cook Islands
- Costa Rica
- Cote d'Ivoire
- Croatia
- Cuba
- Cyprus Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Djibouti
- Dominica
- Dominican Republic
- Ecuador
- Egypt
- El Salvador
- Equatorial Guinea
- Eritrea
- Estonia
- Ethiopia
- Faeroe Islands
- Falkland Islands
- Federated States of Micronesia
- Fiji

- Finland
- France
- French Guiana
- French Polynesia
- Gabon
- Gambia, The
- Georgia
- Germany
- Ghana
- Gibraltar
- Greece
- Greenland
- Grenada
- Guadeloupe
- Guam
- Guatemala
- Guinea
- Guinea-Bissau
- Guyana
- Haiti
- Holy See (Vatican City State)
- Honduras
- Hungary
- Iceland
- India
- Indonesia
- Iran
- Iraq
- Ireland
- Israel
- Italy
- Jamaica
- Japan
- Jordan
- Kazakhstan
- Kenya
- Kiribati

- Korea, Democratic People's Rep
- Korea, Republic of
- Kosovo
- Kuwait Kyrgyzstan
- Laos
- Latvia
- Lebanon
- Lesotho
- Liberia
- Libya
- Liechtenstein
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Macedonia
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Malaysia
- Maldives
- Mali
- Malta
- Martinique
- Mauritania
- Mauritius
- Mayotte
- Mexico
- Moldova
- Monaco
- Mongolia
- Montenegro
- Montserrat
- Morocco Mozambique
- Myanmar
- Namibia
- Nauru
- Nepal
- Netherlands
- Netherlands Antilles

- New Caledonia
- New Zealand
- Nicaragua
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Norway
- Oman
- Pakistan
- Palestine
- Panama
- Papua New Guinea
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Philippines
- Poland
- Portugal
- Puerto Rico
- Qatar
- Réunion
- Romania
- Russia
- Rwanda Saint Barthelemy
- Saint Helena
- Saint Kitts & Nevis
- Saint Lucia
- Saint Martin
- Saint Pierre & Miquelon
- Saint Vincent
- Samoa
- San Marino
- Sao Tomé & Príncipe
- Saudi Arabia
- Senegal
- Serbia
- Seychelles
- Sierra Leone
- Singapore



- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Solomon Islands
- Somalia
- South Africa
- Spain
- Sri Lanka
- Sudan
- Suriname
- Swaziland
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Syria
- Tajikistan
- Tanzania
- Thailand
- Timor Leste
- Togo
- Tokelau Islands
- Tonga
- Trinidad & Tobago
- Tunisia
- Turkey
- Turkmenistan
- Turks & Caicos Islands
- Tuvalu
- Uganda
- Ukraine
- United Arab Emirates
- United Kingdom of GB & NI
- United States of America
- Uruguay
- US Virgin Islands
- Uzbekistan
- Vanuatu
- Venezuela
- Vietnam

- Wallis & Futuna Islands
- Yemen
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

## **Personal income and student debt**

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Please note this section is optional. As with the rest of the survey, this is completely anonymous - and disclosing these data will greatly enhance our ability to interpret the overall data.

Please input all cash values in US Dollars. For your convenience, here is a currency converter: <https://www.google.com/finance/converter>

**9. Income from scholarships/research stipends (last 12 months)**

.....

**10. Income from base salary (last 12 months)**

e.g. institutional salary, pay from supervisor grant, etc.

.....

**11. Income from short-term teaching contracts/teaching stipends (last 12 months)**

e.g. teaching assistant, sessional, etc.

.....

**12. Current amount of student debt**

Include only debt from student loans

.....

## **How much money have you spent out of personal funds (from salary, family, friends, spouse, etc.) that has NOT been reimbursed, for each of the following career-enhancing items?**

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If something is not applicable - put zero

\*\*\*When personal vehicles are used, the value should be calculated at your employer's mileage rate. If (e.g.) you are only compensated for fuel, input the difference.

## **Recruitment and office set-up (One-time expenses)**

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Please input totals related to your CURRENT position

13. **Did you move >100 km to accept your current position? \***

*Mark only one oval.*

Yes

No

14. **Travel related to interview for current position \***

.....

15. **Relocation expenses to current position \***

.....

16. **Personal computer, monitors, etc. for workstation \***

Not including specialized computers for laboratory work

.....

17. **Office furniture \***

Not including home offices

.....

## **Field and laboratory (One-time expenses)**

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Please input totals related to your CURRENT position

18. **Training required to conduct research \***

e.g. first aid, marine safety courses, etc.

.....

19. **Clothing and personal gear supporting research \***

e.g. raingear, boots, lab coats, PFDs, etc.

.....

20. **Software costs related to research \***

e.g. MS Office, ArcGIS, Endnote, etc.

.....

21. **Field equipment necessary for research \***

.....

22. **Laboratory equipment necessary for research \***
- .....

## **Conferences (Last 12 months)**

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How many conferences have you travelled to IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS?

A conference is defined as any event where you confer with people about science in person. Academic conferences, workshops, colloquiums, working groups, etc. are all types of conferences.

23. **Within 100 km of your institution/home \***
- .....

24. **Over 100 km from your institution/home \***
- .....

## **Conferences (Last 12 months)**

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Please estimate the total non-reimbursed amount in each category FOR THE LAST 12 MONTHS

25. **Conference fees \***
- .....

26. **Travel to conferences \***  
e.g. airfare, train, boat
- .....

27. **Travel AT conferences \***  
e.g. bus fare, taxis
- .....

28. **Food during conference travel (no alcohol) \***
- .....

29. **Accommodations at conferences \***
- .....

30. **Printing costs \***

e.g. for posters, leaflets, handouts

.....

31. **Childcare at/while attending conference \***

.....

32. **Care of animals while attending conference**

\*

.....

**Field and laboratory (Last 12 months)**

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Please estimate the total non-reimbursed amount in each category FOR THE LAST 12 MONTHS

33. **Accommodations in field \***

.....

34. **Transportation to and from field sites\*\*\* \***

.....

35. **Food (excluding alcohol) \***

.....

36. **'Bench fees' or other costs for using lab space \***

.....

37. **Childcare while conducting fieldwork \***

.....

38. **Care of animals while conducting fieldwork**

\*

.....

**Publishing and administrative costs (Last 12 months)**

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Please estimate the total non-reimbursed amount in each category FOR THE LAST 12 MONTHS

**39. Publication fees (non-open access) \***

e.g. paying for colour printing, or open access in a NON OA journal

.....

**40. Publication fees (open access) \***

e.g. paying to publish in PLOS ONE

.....

**41. Professional memberships \***

.....

**42. Tuition and course fees \***

.....

**43. Student/colleague funding \***

In total, the amount you spent out of personal funds for any students, staff, volunteers, or other researchers working under your supervision or on your research program

.....

## **Other costs, not yet accounted for (Last 12 months)**

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**44. Other career-enhancing activities \***

Enter any expenses, not reimbursed, that fall outside of any of the above categories, incurred over the LAST 12 MONTHS

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**45. If you spent money on other costs, please briefly describe them**

.....

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.....

## **Final questions**

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Thanks for sticking with us so far - just a few more questions to go

**46. If you get a scholarship or other cash award, how does your compensation change? \***

*Mark only one oval.*

- My pay rate does not change, but I keep the award (net income increases)
- My supervisor does not pay me at all - my income comes from other sources, so I keep the full award (net income increases)
- My supervisor reduces my pay by the same amount as the award (no net change in income)
- My supervisor partially reduces my pay rate, but by less than the value of the award (net income increases)
- Other: .....

**47. When you get a scholarship or other cash award, are you expected to spend part of it on field/laboratory work? \***

*Mark only one oval.*

- Yes
- Sometimes
- No
- I do not conduct laboratory work/fieldwork
- Other: .....

**48. Have you ever skipped a conference, training workshop, fieldwork, or other career-enhancing activity because you would have been expected to pay out of pocket? \***

*Mark only one oval.*

- Yes
- No

**49. How many days of unpaid work did you do between your last paid position (or position as a full-time student) and your current position? \***

Here, we are trying to measure whether there is a culture of 'unpaid interns' in science. Exclude any volunteering for which you received course credit. Include only volunteerism associated with your career path.

.....

50. **When you file paperwork for a reimbursement at your university, what is the typical length of time (in days) before you receive the reimbursement?**

Please answer in # of days between submitting paperwork and receiving money. IF NO ONE REIMBURSES YOU (e.g. you're an unaffiliated scientist, and hold all your grants as cash) then leave this blank.

.....

51. **Do you have any other comments about spending personal money on research?**

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

52. **Do you have any other comments about this survey?**

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.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

