

**Principle investigator: Dr. William Ngo**

**Graduate Student: Nijani Nagaarudkumaran**

**Title:** Autophagy-related genes as biomarkers of ocular surface aging and health

**Participant contact:** To participate, please contact Dr. William Ngo at [wngo@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:wngo@uwaterloo.ca) or Nijani Nagaarudkumaran at [nnagaaru@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:nnagaaru@uwaterloo.ca).

**Study description:** We are looking for participants to take part in a study that aims to study how the ability of cells to recycle proteins is related to ocular surface aging and disease. We will be evaluating the health of the ocular surface and tears, and will be collecting conjunctival cells from the surface of your eye by pressing a small piece of paper onto the white part of your eyes.

**Eligibility:** Young adults (18-25 y/o) with no dry eyes, elderly adults (>= 65 y/o) with AND without dry eyes who do not wear contact lenses and who are not pregnant or breastfeeding.

**Time commitment and remuneration:** Attend a single, 1-hour visit.

**Remuneration:** Participants will receive \$20 for their time and reimbursement for parking or public transit (max \$7.25).

This study has been reviewed and received ethics clearance through a University of Waterloo Research Ethics Board (ORE#: 47232).

**Contact Information:**

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