Enhancing Psychology Research Through Advanced Communications Technology

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Faculty Advisors: Michael Young Ph.D. & Dror Ben-Ze’ev M.S.

Sponsor: IPRO Office
Problem

• Lack of research data assessing validity of recall in depressed people

• Clinicians rely on patient recall and report of affect

• If depressed people report inaccurate or exaggerated affect, treatment and interventions might be inaccurate
Solution

- Use advanced technology to record instantaneous measurements of affect and add to existing data.
- Data can be used to evaluate accuracy of retrospective recall in depressed patients and help determine accurate treatment plan.
Goals

Plan and establish the materials and methods necessary for the research study, and implement them to achieve significant progress in the study.

1. Organize long-term recruitment plan and recruit
2. Prepare PDAs for participant use
3. Screen participants
4. Train on PDA use & conduct follow-ups
5. Collect & organize participant data
Initial Gantt Chart
Organize Recruitment Plan and Recruit

1. Generate Ads
2. Find Possible Locations
3. Create Plan Including Tiers
4. Post Ads
Prepare PDAs for Participant Use

1. Select PDA with operating system that supports ESP
2. Conduct a pilot study
3. Troubleshoot problems
4. Train participants to use PDAs
Screen Participants

1. Generate phone screening script and data sheet for standardization and reliability
2. Schedule “Takers” and “Makers”
3. Record messages and make phone calls
4. Schedule participants
5. Administer Beck Depression Inventory (BDI-II) and Eysneck Personality Questionnaire (EPQ)
Train on PDA Use & Conduct Follow-Ups

1. Train participants on PDA use once accepted into the study

2. Administer an initial survey to begin data collection

3. Schedule a return visit

4. Call participants after 48 hours to motivate them and check-in
Collect & Organize Participant Data

1. Create Pre-prepared Packets

2. Add phone screen data sheet in participant folder, upon completion

3. Forms completed during first visit added to folder

4. Download data from participant PDA, manage in folders on the computer (Including Retrospective Survey)
### Revised Gantt Chart

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Task Name</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Start</th>
<th>Finish</th>
<th>Prior</th>
<th>Resource Name</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Recruitment</td>
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</table>
Results

All Goals Were Accomplished

✓ 1. Recruited many participants
✓ 2. PDAs fully operational
✓ 3. Successfully screened various participants
✓ 4. Currently, many participants are doing the study
✓ 5. Data collected from some participants

As the study continues next semester, the goals will change to developing a new project plan.
Key Factors to Success

- Teamwork
  - Project Management
    - Project Plan
    - Formal/Informal Meetings
    - Agendas
    - Timeline
  - Communication
    - Discussions
    - Emails/Calls
    - iGroups

Teamwork
Communication
Path Forward

1. Recruitment of more participants
2. Analysis of data
3. Draw conclusions from study
Acknowledgments

• Dr. Michael Young and Dror Ben-Ze’ev

• IPRO Office
  – Tom Jacobius from the IPRO office for his generous contribution of the PDA units
Any Questions?

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