**Project Title:**
Is the pen mightier than the mouse? Looking at differences in online versus paper-based questionnaire responses in obstructive sleep apnea patients.

**Host School/ Institute**
Woolcock Institute of Medical Research/
Central Clinical School

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**Project Type:**  Data Analysis, Clinical

**Project Category:**  Epidemiology, Sleep Medicine

**Project Keywords:**
1. questionnaire concordance
2. obstructive sleep apnea
3. daytime sleepiness
4. Epworth Sleepiness Scale

**Project Description:**

The Epworth Sleepiness Scale is a questionnaire used worldwide by clinicians and sleep researchers to measure a person’s level of daytime sleepiness by asking how likely a person is to fall asleep in 8 different situations. It is a simple and quick questionnaire developed by Murray Johns at the Epworth Hospital in Melbourne in 1991. While the questions have remained the same, technological advances since then mean that the delivery of the questionnaire has changed from paper-based to online. To date, no study has examined whether or not this “new” method of questionnaire delivery could affect the way people respond.

This research study aims to identify if there are differences in the responses given by a participant depending on whether they use their pen or use their mouse to respond. The study will examine data that has been collected from around 200 patients who participated in obstructive sleep apnea clinical trials at the Woolcock Institute of Medical Research in Glebe between 2012 and 2015. The study will analyse the agreement between online and paper based questionnaire responses completed within a week of one another using Bland-Altman plots. (Miller et al Sleep Health 2015)

We aim to publish the results of this analysis in a sleep research journal and present the results at a national sleep conference in 2016.