UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK
OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH

UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE

RISK ASSESSMENT FORM – PROCEDURES INVOLVING HUMAN SUBJECTS

		Procedure No	**SS 012**
Title of Procedure	Balance assessment using force plates		
Name of Assessor	Dr. Drew Harrison	Assessment date	November 2018
Does this procedure already have ethical approval ?			**Yes**
If so, enter ethical number and expiry date	**Approval No: 2019_11_SS 012_RA** **End Date: December 2028**		

1 **Please provide a brief description of the procedure**

In this procedure the ability of healthy adult volunteer subjects to balance on one leg will be assessed using a force plate. The procedure is similar in many respects to the Romberg test. The test will be performed for a period of 30 – 60 seconds under two conditions: eyes open and eyes closed. The tester will observe the subject throughout the period of the test and should the subject appear to lose balance and begin to fall, the subject will be instructed to stop, open their eyes and regain their balance. The force plate will be used to obtain a variety of indices of balance, e.g. centre of pressure (COP) 95% confidence ellipse area, sd of COP loci, etc.

Note: Standard Operating Procedure for the AMTI Force platforms are available on the PESS Sharepoint

2 **Location in which the procedure may take place**

x	Teaching Laboratory (PG040)
x	Research Laboratory (PG043)
Others, please specify	

3 **Eligibility of subject(s) to be used**

x	PESS student (U.G. or P.G.)
x	University of Limerick staff or campus personnel

Others, please specify

x	Fit and healthy adults or athlete volunteers engaged in research projects granted ethical approval

4	**Potential risks. To be explained before obtaining consent**

x	None, or minimal discomfort only

In some trials where simultaneous 3D motion analysis also takes place, subjects may be required to wear exercise clothing or swimming costumes so that anatomical landmarks can be easily identified and marked with retroflective markers or tape.

A third party, preferably of the same sex as the subject, will be present during periods of physical contact between experimenter and subject.

Video recordings will be kept safe and secure and destroyed if necessary at the end of the teaching programme or research project.

5	**Action to be taken in the event of a foreseeable emergency**

The procedure will be terminated if the volunteer shows any sign of distress.

Standard first aid procedures may be required depending on the severity of the situation. The following standard procedure should be followed in the event of an incident occurring in the PESS building / UL Facility:

1. Stop the procedure. Position the subject to prevent self-injury.
2. If appropriate, raise the subject's lower limbs to improve blood flow. Should the subject fail to respond summon help immediately.
3. Check vital signs airways, breathing and circulation (ABC)
4. If required attempt CPR as soon as possible.
5. Requesting Help: Emergency Contact telephone numbers are listed on laboratory door:
   - During normal working hours 9am-5pm, use lab phone to contact the Student Health Centre on **061-20**2534
   - Outside of normal working hours, or if the Student Health Centre number is engaged/busy, use the laboratory phone to dial 3333 for UL security personnel who will then contact the ambulance service. Contact one of the PESS First Aiders – names are listed on the PESS laboratory door.
6. When contacting the above clearly state: Location, Building, Room Number, Nature of Incident/Accident and provide a contact number.
7. Complete the UL 'Accident & Emergency' form (completed by the investigator, not the volunteer). Forms available on UL HR website: https://www.ul.ie/hr/hr-policies-procedures-and-forms-z

6	**Level of supervision required for procedure**

x	PESS lecturing or research staff, PESS teaching assistants
x	PESS postgraduate researcher

Others, please specify

x	Trained undergraduate or postgraduate student

7	**Other documentation required for this assessment ?**

x	PESS standard pre-test questionnaire
x	Participant Information Sheet

Others, please specify

x	Participant Consent Form

For office use only

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Procedure No SS 012

Title of Procedure Balance assessment using force plates

Name of Assessor Dr. Drew Harrison

Assessment date November 2018

End Date: December 2028

[TI **Committee approval for experiment**

[KJ Granted

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Others, pllase s]ecify ----------

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Comments/conditions

Signed'---1 .

(Head of Department)

Date (5J