**Assent Forms**

**Consent versus Assent**

Individuals who do not have the authority to consent to participate in research must still provide their assent. "Assent" is an active affirmation of a desire to participate and differs from "consent" which is recognized as being granted from an individual with the legal authority to do so. Even very young children or those with limited cognitive ability can assent and they can certainly indicate a desire not to participate, which must be honoured.

If the individual giving assent is able to read and write then assent should be documented using an assent form, otherwise assent should be obtained through a conversation with the participant.

Normally when any participants recruited from the school system (pre-college and pre‑university) are 16 years or older, signed informed consent is to be obtained from both the participant and the parent/guardian. If participants are under the age of 16, including preschool children, assent is to be obtained from the participant in addition to signed informed consent from the parent/guardian.

All post school system participants are to give signed informed consent unless deemed legally incompetent by some appropriate authority to provide such consent. If the latter is the case, signed informed consent must be obtained from the person(s) assigned with the authority to make decisions on behalf of the participant and assent must be obtained from the participant.

Two copies of the Assent form should be signed by the investigator, one for the investigator and the other to be kept by the participant or by the parent or legal guardian.

\*\*The template below should be revised as appropriate for individual studies.

**Template Assent Form**

**Assent Form**

**St. Francis Xavier University**

**Title of the Study**: fill in title of study

**Researchers**: fill in name, Honours Student, Department of fill in department, St. Francis Xavier University and Dr. fill in name, fill in position e.g., Associate Professor, Department of fill in department, St. Francis Xavier University, etc.

ROMEO #: fill in ROMEO number

The undersigned investigator hereby certifies that they have discussed the research project with [name of participant] and have explained the information contained in this document, including the reason for the research, the risks, and the benefits or potential benefits. The undersigned investigator further certifies that the participant was encouraged to ask questions and that all questions were answered.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_