JOHN WILEY & SONS, LTD, THE ATRIUM, SOUTHERN GATE, CHICHESTER PO19 8SQ, UK

***PROOF OF YOUR ARTICLE ATTACHED, PLEASE READ CAREFULLY***

After receipt of your corrections your article will be published initially within the online version of the journal.

PLEASE AIM TO RETURN YOUR CORRECTIONS WITHIN 48 HOURS OF RECEIPT OF YOUR PROOF, THIS WILL ENSURE THAT THERE ARE NO UNNECESSARY DELAYS IN THE PUBLICATION OF YOUR ARTICLE

☐ READ PROOFS CAREFULLY

ONCE PUBLISHED ONLINE OR IN PRINT IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO MAKE ANY FURTHER CORRECTIONS TO YOUR ARTICLE

- This will be your only chance to correct your proof
- Please note that the volume and page numbers shown on the proofs are for position only

☐ ANSWER ALL QUERIES ON PROOFS (Queries are attached as the last page of your proof.)

- List all corrections and send back via e-mail to the production contact as detailed in the covering e-mail, or mark all corrections directly on the proofs and send the scanned copy via e-mail. Please do not send corrections by fax or post

☐ CHECK FIGURES AND TABLES CAREFULLY

- Check size, numbering, and orientation of figures
- All images in the PDF are downsampled (reduced to lower resolution and file size) to facilitate Internet delivery. These images will appear at higher resolution and sharpness in the printed article
- Review figure legends to ensure that they are complete
- Check all tables. Review layout, title, and footnotes

☐ COMPLETE COPYRIGHT TRANSFER AGREEMENT (CTA) if you have not already signed one

- Please send a scanned signed copy with your proofs by e-mail. Your article cannot be published unless we have received the signed CTA

☐ OFFPRINTS

- Free access to the final PDF offprint or your article will be available via Author Services only. Please therefore sign up for Author Services if you would like to access your article PDF offprint and enjoy the many other benefits the service offers.

Additional reprint and journal issue purchases

- Should you wish to purchase additional copies of your article, please click on the link and follow the instructions provided: http://offprint.cosprinters.com/icos/bw
- Corresponding authors are invited to inform their co-authors of the reprint options available.
- Please note that regardless of the form in which they are acquired, reprints should not be resold, nor further disseminated in electronic form, nor deployed in part or in whole in any marketing, promotional or educational contexts without authorization from Wiley. Permissions requests should be directed to mailto: permissionsuk@wiley.com
- For information about ‘Pay-Per-View and Article Select’ click on the following link: http://olabout.wiley.com/WileyCDA/Section/id-404512.html
Impact of case-relevant and case-irrelevant communication within the surgical team on surgical site infection

F. Tschan 1, J. Šeelandt 1, S. Keller 1, N. K. Semmer 2, A. Kurmann 3, D. Candinas 3 and G. Beldi 3

1 Institute of Work and Organizational Psychology, University of Neuchâtel, Neuchâtel; 2 Institute of Psychology, University of Berne; and 3 Department of Visceral Surgery and Medicine, University Hospital and University of Berne, Berne, Switzerland

Correspondence to: Professor F. Tschan, Institute of Work and Organizational Psychology, University of Neuchâtel, Rue Emile Argand 11, CH-2000 Neuchâtel, Switzerland (e-mail: Franziska.Tschan@unine.ch)

Introduction

Surgical-site infections (SSIs) are the most common complications in surgery, with highest incidence rates after open abdominal procedures 1-2. Despite attempts to reduce SSIs through evidence-based practices, their incidence remains high 3-4. Most established risk factors for SSI refer to characteristics of the patient (such as co-morbidities, obesity) and the procedure (such as grade of contamination, duration) 5. Few studies have explored the impact of the behaviour of the surgical personnel on SSI 1-3, 6-7. These studies focused primarily on compliance with hygiene-related protocols and antiseptic procedures 1, 6, and on the introduction of checklists 7, but not on effects of teamwork and communication in the operating theatre.

Prospective observational studies during routine surgery emphasize the importance of good teamwork and cooperation. Communication failures can be observed in almost every procedure 8, and poor teamwork is linked to procedural error 9. Briefing before surgery and information-sharing during surgery are related to fewer complications and less mortality 10. With one notable exception 10, the endpoints of studies investigating teamwork and communication in the operating theatre were not clinical outcomes. There is still little direct evidence of a relationship between intraoperative communication and postoperative complications 11.

Communication within the surgical team can be case-relevant or case-irrelevant (such as small-talk). Case-relevant communication assures the exchange of information and supports the team in developing a common understanding of the task 12. A common understanding, in turn, makes it easier for team members to anticipate developments and to align their actions...
accompanying. As a result, team coordination should be smoother\textsuperscript{13,14}, and performance should improve. Case-
irrelevant communication during surgery is more ambigu-
ous; it may promote a positive work environment in the
operative theatre\textsuperscript{15}, but it also can divert the attention of
the surgical team from its main task, and has been found
to impair team performance\textsuperscript{16,17}.

Case-relevant and case-irrelevant communication may
have different effects in different phases of an operation.

Case-relevant communication is likely to be beneficial
throughout the surgery. Case-irrelevant communication is
more likely to occur during routine activities, such as the
wound closure phase\textsuperscript{18}; it may thus distract surgeons while
they are suturing, which in turn may increase the risk of
incisional infections.

In addition to communication, distractions (such as
noises, traffic) may also compromise performance\textsuperscript{17,19}.

Previous studies have found that more distractions and
higher noise levels are related to poorer teamwork in the
operating theatre\textsuperscript{17,20}, and that more lapses in discipline
(operationalized as traffic, noise and visitors) are related to
a higher incidence of SSI\textsuperscript{1}.

The primary goal of this prospective observational study
was to test the impact of communication within the surgi-
cal team on SSI for major elective open abdominal surgery.
Specifically, the effect of case-relevant and case-irrelevant
communication was studied during the whole surgical pro-
cedure, as well as during closure of the abdominal wound
on deep/organ and incisional SSI. The secondary aim was
to test the effect of distractions within the operating theatre
on the incidence of SSI.

\section*{Methods}

\subsection*{Study design and sample}

Patients undergoing elective open abdominal surgery
expected to last for at least 1h were included, when
observers were available. Exclusion criteria were laparo-
sopic and emergency procedures, and pre-existing SSI.

The operations were performed in the visceral surgery
department and included procedures on the upper and
lower gastrointestinal tract and the hepatobiliary sys-
tem. All procedures were open, with median or oblique
laparotomy incisions.

The surgical procedures were observed by a team
of trained psychologists using a reliable observational
system\textsuperscript{21}.

Surgical procedures were selected as follows. Each week,
the observer team indicated to the study coordinator the
days for which observers were available. The coordinator
then chose procedures that met the inclusion criteria for
those dates. If more than one operation met the inclusion
criteria, the first procedure of the day was chosen. For
225 days indicated, 171 suitable procedures were available
and observed. Four observed procedures were excluded
before analysis; two patients withdrew consent for the
follow-up interview, one patient died within 30 days, and
one procedure lasted for less than 30 min.

The operations were conducted in a Swiss university
hospital. They took place in one of three equally spaced
and identical operating theatres, all equipped with a
high-efficiency particulate air filter vertical laminar airflow
ventilation system. The surgical teams were composed of
at least one Board-certified surgeon, at least one resident,
one student, one scrub nurse, one or two circulating
nurses, at least one anaesthetist, and one nurse anaesthetist.

The Internal Review Board of the Hospital approved the
study. All patients were informed about data collection.
Consent from all staff was obtained.

\subsection*{Patients and procedures}

Preoperative preparation of the patient was performed
according to the standards of the clinic and included hair
dipping outside the operating theatre, skin disinfection
using povidone–iodine-based solution, administration of
antibiotics 60–30min before the incision, with repetition
after 6h of surgery. Drain placements including nasogastric
and identical operating theatres, all equipped with a

\subsection*{Primary study endpoint}

Independent and trained infection control practitioners
assessed the presence of SSI according to standards defined
by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention\textsuperscript{22}. This
protocol also includes a follow-up phone call 30 days after
surgery. If an SSI was suspected, consultants or general
practitioners were asked to confirm and classify it. SSIs were grouped as: superficial incisional, deep incisional, or organ/space SSI. In line with other authors, superficial and deep incisional SSI were combined into one category.

Assessment of communication and distractions

Case-relevant and case-irrelevant communication, as well as distractions during the procedure, were assessed by direct observation. Trained psychologists observed the operations using an event-coding observational system that has been shown to be reliable. Observers were located in the operating theatre, about 1.5 m from the operation table, facing the lead surgeon. The observations started when the patient was wheeled into the theatre, and ended with the last suture. Analyses refer to the time between incision and insertion of the last stitch.

Each exchange of communication within the sterile team (surgeons and scrub nurses), and between the sterile team and anaesthetists, was time-stamped and coded as either case-relevant or case-irrelevant. An exchange of communication was defined as one or several verbal statements related to the same theme and not interrupted by pauses.

Case-relevant communication was defined as: exchange about the patient in surgery or the procedure performed. This included: communication about current or future actions and explanations (for example, the surgeons talk about the next steps of the procedure); leadership statements (for example, the surgeon requests insertion of a nasogastric tube); and case-related teaching (for example, the surgeon asks to question on the use of a specific instrument). Case-relevant communication was expressed as the mean per hour for the entire procedure.

Case-irrelevant communication was coded when members of the sterile team: talked about topics unrelated to the patient or the procedure; or joked or laughed.

Case-irrelevant communication was also expressed as the mean per hour for the entire procedure, and as the mean count during the wound closure phase. The closure phase was defined as the last 20 minutes of the procedure, because this is the duration required for suturing the abdominal fascia and skin after midline or oblique laparotomy. This was independent of the duration of the whole procedure.

Distraction coding included the following events: noise events produced by a member of the non-sterile team (for instance loud noises when opening packages); traffic in the operating theatre (operationalized by counting doors to the theatre that were opened); and side-conversations in the theatre (non-sterile personnel, including the anaesthesitist, scrub nurses, technicians and visitors engaging in conversation with one another, unless those conversations were very quiet). Noise events, door openings and side-conversations were each expressed as the mean per hour.

To assess interobserver agreement, 29 (17.4 per cent) of the 167 operations were observed simultaneously by two observers. Cohen’s weighted κ was used to assess interobserver agreement, based on 5-min intervals. All values of κ were greater than 0.70, which is considered substantial agreement.

Statistical analysis

The prespecified primary outcomes were incisional or organ/space SSI. Descriptive information was expressed as frequencies and percentages for categorical variables, and as mean(s.d.) for continuous variables. To assess associations of SSI rates with patient characteristics, procedure characteristics, communication and distractions, univariable logistic regression analyses were performed. Because the number of outcome events (SSIs) was small, conventional multivariable analysis with all baseline characteristics as co-variables was not feasible. Therefore the propensity score co-variable adjustment technique was used. The variables included in the propensity score were selected based on a priori considerations (Table 1).

Probability values and 95 per cent c.i. were two-tailed. SPSS® for Windows® version 22 software (IBM, Armonk, New York, USA) was used for analysis; *P* < 0.05 was considered statistically significant. Because no previous research provided expected effect sizes for the type of procedures, sample size considerations were based on the recommendations of Peduzzi and colleagues, assuming an overall infection rate of 15–20 per cent.

Results

A total of 167 observed procedures were analysed; their mean duration was 4.6(2.1) h. Twenty-four patients (14.4 per cent) developed an SSI; 14 (8.4 per cent) were deep/organ space SSI and ten (6.0 per cent) incisional SSI. Descriptive statistics and results of univariable logistic regression relating patient characteristics and surgery characteristics to SSI are shown in Table 1. No patient characteristic or procedure type was significantly related to SSI. Among the surgical risk factors, blood transfusion and deep incisional SSI were combined into one category.

Case-relevant and case-irrelevant communication

Separate univariable analyses showed that case-relevant communication throughout the procedure was significantly associated with a lower risk of space/organ SSI.
logistic regression analysis was performed, including the

Patient characteristics

Organ/space SSI (n = 14) Incisional SSI (n = 10)

Overall (n = 167) No SSI (n = 143) n* OR† P n* OR† P

Age (years)† 61.5 (14.5) 60.9 (14.6) 63.1 (14.3) 1.01 (0.97, 1.05) 0.58 (70) 67 (12.5) 1.04 (0.98, 1.15) 0.163

Male sex × 90 (53.9) 77 (53.8) 7 (50) 0.86 (0.29, 2.57) 0.78 (5) 6 (67) 1.29 (0.35, 4.75) 0.706

Smoking in past 30 days 40 (24) 35 (25.9) 1 (7) 0.22 (0.03, 1.74) 0.152 (22) 2 (23) 0.75 (0.13, 1.5) 0.682

Excessive alcohol use 32 (19.2) 27 (18.9) 3 (21) 0.17 (0.31, 4.49) 0.817 (22) 2 (27) 1.01 (0.02, 1.5) 0.903

BMI > 27 kg/m² 61 (36.5) 52 (36.4) 6 (43) 1.31 (0.43, 4.19) 0.317 (32) 3 (33) 0.75 (0.19, 0.3) 0.561

Diabetes mellitus 30 (18.0) 27 (18.9) 2 (14) 0.72 (0.15, 3.39) 0.674 (11) 1 (14) 0.48 (0.06, 1.39) 0.492

Oral steroid use 18 (10.8) 15 (10.5) 1 (7) 0.006 (0.08, 0.58) 0.08 (2) 2 (20) 1.23 (0.41, 0.69) 0.365

Malignant condition 118 (70.7) 98 (68.5) 12 (96) 2.76 (0.59, 12.93) 0.197 (88) 1.84 (0.37, 0.89) 0.453

Surgery characteristics

Type of surgery

Upper GI tract 30 (18.0) 29 (20.3) 1 (7) 0.23 (0.05, 0.94) 0.028 (0) –

Liver/pancreas 88 (52.7) 73 (51.0) 6 (43) 1.73 (0.55, 5.4) 0.349 (6) 6 (60) 1.44 (0.39, 5.32) 0.586

Lower GI tract 33 (19.8) 27 (18.9) 3 (21) 1.17 (0.31, 4.19) 0.817 (3) 3 (33) 1.84 (0.45, 7.59) 0.398

Other 16 (9.8) 14 (9.9) 1 (7) 0.71 (0.3, 5.63) 0.749 (11) 1 (10) 1.02 (0.12, 8.69) 0.983

Bowel preparation 12 (7.2) 13 (9.1) 1 (7) 0.84 (0.12, 5.8) 0.872 (0) –

Duration of surgery (h)† 4.0 (2.2) 4.1 (2.0) 2.56 (1.9) 0.35 (0.11, 0.9) 0.017 (4) 1.0 (1.2) 0.25 (1.0, 0.70) 0.738

Duration of surgery > 75th percentile 111 (66.5) 91 (63.6) 12 (86) 3.43 (0.74, 15.92) 0.109 (8) 8 (20) 2.29 (0.47, 11.7) 0.307

Blood transfusion during surgery 41 (24.6) 29 (20.3) 7 (50) 3.93 (1.28, 12.10) 0.027 (5) 5 (50) 3.03 (1.07, 14.5) 0.040

Drain placed 137 (82.0) 115 (80.4) 13 (93) 0.37 (0.20, 0.52) 38.7 (3) 24 (9) 1.02 (0.07, 1.5) 0.985

ASA fitness grade > II 108 (64.7) 94 (65.7) 7 (50) 0.48 (0.16, 1.48) 0.205 (7) 7 (70) 1.14 (0.26, 0.42) 0.852

Wound contamination grade > 2 15 (0.9) 14 (0.8) 1 (7) 0.71 (0.3, 5.63) 0.749 (0) –

*Number of patients with percentages in parentheses unless indicated otherwise; values are means ± standard deviation (s.d.) and 95% confidence interval (95% CI).

†Multiple logistic regression analysis was performed, including the propensity score for three procedures (no SSI), the adjusted logistic regression analysis was based on 164 operations.

The adjusted model shows that more case-relevant communication during the whole procedure (events per hour) was associated with a decreased incidence in organ/space SSI (Fig. 1) (adjusted odds ratio (OR) 0.86, 95% CI 0.77 to 0.97; P = 0.014).
Regarding incisional SSI, the adjusted model for case-irrelevant communication throughout the procedure (events per hour) showed that more case-irrelevant communication overall was related to a higher incidence of incisional SSI (adjusted OR 1.19, 1.04 to 1.36; \( P = 0.012 \)). In particular, more case-irrelevant communication during closure was related to a higher incidence of incisional SSI (adjusted OR 1.29, 1.08 to 1.55; \( P = 0.006 \)). To investigate whether the effect was due to case-irrelevant communication overall, or to case-irrelevant communication during the closure phase, a logistic regression model was used, adjusting for the effect of case-irrelevant communication during closure for the propensity score, as well as for case-relevant communication before closure. The results show that more case-irrelevant communication during closure remained significantly related to a higher risk of incisional SSI (adjusted OR 1.23, 1.04 to 1.50; \( P = 0.048 \)), whereas case-irrelevant communication before closure was not significant (adjusted OR 1.09, 0.92 to 1.29; \( P = 0.308 \)) (Fig. 2).

**Perioperative distractions**

None of the observed distractions (noise events, door openings, side-conversations) was significantly related to incisional or organ-space SSI in univariable or propensity score-adjusted logistic regression analyses (Table 2).

**Discussion**

In this study, more case-relevant communication during the whole procedure was associated with a lower risk of organ-space SSI, whereas more case-irrelevant communication during the closure phase was associated with an increased risk of incisional SSI. Distractions were not associated with SSI.

Case-relevant communication assures the exchange of information, less sharing of information has been found to be related to more complications. Exchanging case-relevant information may foster a shared understanding of the task within the team. Indeed, studies from medicine and other fields have shown that task-related communication helps team members to cooperate more smoothly; this is likely to be particularly important during difficult phases of the operation. Smooth cooperation implies that the surgeons do not have to switch attention between their primary task and the need to assure team coordination, thus avoiding microinterruptions. In addition, persistent misunderstandings and loss of information have been observed frequently in surgery; they may be attenuated by exchanging more case-relevant communication during the procedure.

Things are more complex for case-irrelevant communication. Case-relevant communication may improve team climate. Relaxed communication and the use of humour are seen as an important part of team-building processes. However, case-irrelevant communication may also divert attention from the primary task and may impair performance. The present results support the distracting effect of case-irrelevant communication under specific circumstances: case-irrelevant communication predicted incisional SSI. It appears that case-irrelevant
communication during closure was responsible for the higher rate of wound infection.

During closure, the most difficult part of the operation is over, and routine activities are left for most team members (clearing and removing equipment). During routine phases, teams are more likely to engage in case-irrelevant talk\textsuperscript{18}, which may increase the probability of minor errors for several reasons. First, performing a manual task while engaging in an unrelated conversation is a form of multitasking, which may increase the likelihood of errors\textsuperscript{33}. Second, negative effects of demanding tasks often manifest themselves only after the period of high workload\textsuperscript{34}, because attentiveness often decreases when people start to relax. For example, residents working long hours have more car accidents on their way home\textsuperscript{35}. Third, although supervised by an experienced surgeon, closure of the abdominal wall is often performed by a junior surgeon, for whom suturing is not yet a routine task\textsuperscript{36}. In contrast to experienced surgeons, who can shield themselves quite well from distractions\textsuperscript{38,39}, the performance of junior surgeons, including manual performance, tends to degrade in distracting environments\textsuperscript{16,40–42}. Lower concentration may induce less careful suturing, more damaged tissue, or too much tension in the sutures, thus raising the risk of incisional SSI. Fatigue may be an additional aggravating factor\textsuperscript{43}.

These results confirm the findings of a previous study suggesting that lapses in discipline increase the risk of SSI. They refine these earlier findings by identifying the most sensitive phase (wound closure) for this effect. It is, however, not clear why only case-irrelevant communication affected the surgeons in the closure phase, and other distractions did not. It is possible that conversation conveys meaning to a greater extent than other distractions. Meaningful noise is difficult to ignore\textsuperscript{44}, and is more likely to impair concentration and coordination\textsuperscript{17}.

This study also adds to the growing evidence that the quality of teamwork in the operating theatre is related to patient outcomes\textsuperscript{11}. A shared understanding of important characteristics of a situation is a central feature of good teamwork, as suggested by the finding that operations done by familiar teams result in fewer complications\textsuperscript{45,46}. Case-related communication may be an efficient way to achieve this common understanding. However, there is an alternative explanation that cannot be ruled out: it is possible that case-related is simply a marker of good teamwork. This alternative explanation would imply that improving teamwork would result in better communication; the present interpretation implies that improving communication would result in better teamwork.

Using behaviour observation as a method, and simultaneously assessing case-relevant and case-irrelevant communication as well as distractions, constitutes a strength of this study. This method allowed communication to be assessed separately during the closure phase of the procedure. Furthermore, whereas most other studies investigated procedures lasting less than 2 h\textsuperscript{47}, this study focused on long, open abdominal procedures with the highest risk of SSI. A strength of this study is also the focus on everyday behaviour, rather than on communication failure\textsuperscript{48,49}, general, ordinary aspects of communication measurably affected SSI. This supports previous findings that intraoperative behaviour that is not dramatic, yet lacks focus, may cause minor errors that often go unnoticed\textsuperscript{17}.

The present study is limited by the fact that a controlled randomized design was not feasible; instead a prospective design was adopted. However, reverse causation is not a plausible explanation for the present results, because SSIs were assessed after the operation and pre-existing SSIs were excluded. Most importantly, the exact mechanisms linking communication events to SSI remain unexplored. Because this was a single-site study and only elective open abdominal surgery was included, generalization of the results is limited. Many confounding factors, including team climate, and thus probably also communication, may vary considerably between hospitals\textsuperscript{50}.

This study measured the effect of intraoperative communication on SSIs because they are the most frequent complications in surgery. The results highlight the importance of understanding intraoperative communication. Case-related communication during the whole procedure appeared to reduce the risk of organ/space SSI, whereas case-irrelevant communication during the closure phase seemed to increase the risk of incisional SSI. Yet, case-irrelevant communication can foster a positive team climate\textsuperscript{9}, and it is understandable that the surgical team relaxes after a long and difficult procedure\textsuperscript{18}. Prohibiting case-irrelevant communication might create tension and frustration, which may have detrimental effects. It may be more appropriate for teams to adapt behaviour to the situation by allowing a short period of tension release or a break, before focusing anew on the task of wound closure\textsuperscript{51}.

**Acknowledgements**

The authors thank B. Dubach (head nurse) and U. Kloesch (technician) for their support; P. Jüni for statistical advice and critical comments on the manuscript; K. Tal for editorial assistance; C. Gefeller, S. Huber, N. Jenni, F. Leupi, M. Monnier and A. Püschel (observers) for assisting in data collection.
collection; and D. Brand, M. Künzi and B. Uhlmann (study nurses) for collecting the follow-up data. 

Disclosure: The authors declare no conflict of interest. 

References


Queries from the Copyeditor:

AQ1. Please confirm that given names (red) and surnames/family names (green) have been identified correctly.
WILEY AUTHOR DISCOUNT CLUB

We would like to show our appreciation to you, a highly valued contributor to Wiley’s publications, by offering a unique 25% discount off the published price of any of our books*.

All you need to do is apply for the Wiley Author Discount Card by completing the attached form and returning it to us at the following address:

The Database Group (Author Club)  
John Wiley & Sons Ltd  
The Atrium  
Southern Gate  
Chichester  
PO19 8SQ  
UK

Alternatively, you can register online at www.wileyeurope.com/go/authordiscount  
Please pass on details of this offer to any co-authors or fellow contributors.

After registering you will receive your Wiley Author Discount Card with a special promotion code, which you will need to quote whenever you order books direct from us.

The quickest way to order your books from us is via our European website at:

http://www.wileyeurope.com

Key benefits to using the site and ordering online include:

Real-time SECURE on-line ordering  
 Easy catalogue browsing  
 Dedicated Author resource centre  
 Opportunity to sign up for subject-orientated e-mail alerts

Alternatively, you can order direct through Customer Services at:  
cs-books@wiley.co.uk, or call +44 (0)1243 843294, fax +44 (0)1243 843303

So take advantage of this great offer and return your completed form today.

Yours sincerely,

Verity Leaver  
Group Marketing Manager  
author@wiley.co.uk

*TERMS AND CONDITIONS  
This offer is exclusive to Wiley Authors, Editors, Contributors and Editorial Board Members in acquiring books for their personal use. There must be no resale through any channel. The offer is subject to stock availability and cannot be applied retrospectively. Wiley reserves the right to amend the terms of the offer at any time.
REGISTRATION FORM
For Wiley Author Club Discount Card

To enjoy your 25% discount, tell us your areas of interest and you will receive relevant catalogues or leaflets from which to select your books. Please indicate your specific subject areas below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Options</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounting</td>
<td>Public, Corporate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>Analytical, Industrial/Safety, Organic, Inorganic, Polymer, Spectroscopy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encyclopedia/Reference</td>
<td>Business/Finance, Life Sciences, Medical Sciences, Physical Sciences, Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earth &amp; Environmental Science</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospitality</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genetics</td>
<td>Bioinformatics/Computational Biology, Proteomics, Genomics, Gene Mapping, Clinical Genetics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Science</td>
<td>Cardiovascular, Diabetes, Endocrinology, Imaging, Obstetrics/Gynaecology, Oncology, Pharmacology, Psychiatry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Profit</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Architecture</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business/Management</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Science</td>
<td>Database/Data Warehouse, Internet Business, Networking, Programming/Software, Development, Object Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>Civil, Communications Technology, Electronic, Environmental, Industrial, Mechanical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance/Investing</td>
<td>Economics, Institutional, Personal Finance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Science</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscape Architecture</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statistics</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Materials Science</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>Clinical, Forensic, Social &amp; Personality, Health &amp; Sport, Cognitive, Organizational, Developmental &amp; Special Ed, Child Welfare, Self-Help</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physics/Physical Science</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please complete the next page /
I confirm that I am (*delete where not applicable):

a **Wiley** Book Author/Editor/Contributor* of the following book(s):

ISBN:
ISBN:

a **Wiley** Journal Editor/Contributor/Editorial Board Member* of the following journal(s):

SIGNATURE: ……………………………………………………………………………………         Date: ………………………………………

**PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING DETAILS IN BLOCK CAPITALS:**

**TITLE:** (e.g. Mr, Mrs, Dr) ……………………  **FULL NAME:** …………………………………………………………………………………

**JOB TITLE** (or Occupation): …………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

**DEPARTMENT:** ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….

**COMPANY/INSTITUTION:** ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

**ADDRESS:** …………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

**TOWN/CITY:** …………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

**COUNTY/STATE:** ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….

**COUNTRY:** …………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

**POSTCODE/ZIP CODE:** …………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

**DAYTIME TEL:** ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

**FAX:** ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

**E-MAIL:** …………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

**YOUR PERSONAL DATA**

We, John Wiley & Sons Ltd, will use the information you have provided to fulfil your request. In addition, we would like to:

1. Use your information to keep you informed by post of titles and offers of interest to you and available from us or other Wiley Group companies worldwide, and may supply your details to members of the Wiley Group for this purpose.
   [ ] Please tick the box if you do **NOT** wish to receive this information

2. Share your information with other carefully selected companies so that they may contact you by post with details of titles and offers that may be of interest to you.
   [ ] Please tick the box if you do **NOT** wish to receive this information.

**E-MAIL ALERTING SERVICE**

We also offer an alerting service to our author base via e-mail, with regular special offers and competitions. If you **DO** wish to receive these, please opt in by ticking the box [ ].

If, at any time, you wish to stop receiving information, please contact the Database Group (**databasgroup@wiley.co.uk**) at John Wiley & Sons Ltd, The Atrium, Southern Gate, Chichester, PO19 8SQ, UK.

**TERMS & CONDITIONS**

This offer is exclusive to Wiley Authors, Editors, Contributors and Editorial Board Members in acquiring books for their personal use. There should be no resale through any channel. The offer is subject to stock availability and may not be applied retrospectively. This entitlement cannot be used in conjunction with any other special offer. Wiley reserves the right to vary the terms of the offer at any time.

**PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO:**

Database Group (Author Club), John Wiley & Sons Ltd, The Atrium, Southern Gate, Chichester, PO19 8SQ, UK **author@wiley.co.uk**

Fax: +44 (0)1243 770154