

Participant Information Sheet

Survey of healthcare professionals (excluding doctors and dentists): enablers and barriers to pursuing a research-related academic career

Ethics number: 29715

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You are being invited to take part in a research study. Before you decide whether to take part it is important that you understand why we are doing the study and what is involved. Please take time to read this information sheet carefully.

What is the research about?

The research team at the University of Southampton is working with Health Education England (HEE) the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), and a number of other funders of Research Training Awards to determine the enablers and barriers to pursuing an academic career amongst healthcare professionals (excluding doctors and dentists). Health Education England would like to better understand the challenges healthcare professionals encounter to inform their work and influence other organisations.

The funders involved in this study are: HEE/NIHR, the Medical Research Council (MRC), Arthritis Research UK, Diabetes UK, Alzheimer's Society, Kidney Research UK, Stroke Research and the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE).

The research study is in the form of an online survey which aims to understand the routes by which healthcare professionals develop an interest in academic careers and gain their first experience, the career path they pursue and the nature of the enablers and barriers to pursuing their career. The survey will also focus on how individuals can be better supported at critical stages of their career.

The study is funded by the NIHR and HEE and the Research Sponsor is the University of Southampton.

Why have I been chosen?

You have been chosen to take part in this study because you have previously applied to one of the above named funders either for a Doctoral level award or a Post-Doctoral Level award including Clinical Doctoral Research Fellowships, Doctoral Research Fellowships, Post-Doctoral Research Fellowships and Clinical Lectureships.

We know that applicants apply to more than one funder, but in order to maintain confidentiality we cannot check lists from individual funders, so for this reason you may

receive an invitation from more than one source. If this happens, then there is no need to complete the survey again.

What will happen to me if I take part?

We are asking you to complete an online survey which asks you about your academic career, the career paths you have pursued and the nature of enablers and barriers to your academic career thus far. The survey should take you no longer than 30 minutes to complete and your responses will be entirely anonymous to both the research team at the University of Southampton and the funders involved in this study. Your consent to take part will take the form of a tick box at the beginning of the online survey.

Are there any benefits in my taking part?

There are no anticipated benefits to you directly. However, more generally, we expect the findings from this survey to help us better understand the career progression of healthcare professionals. This will be used to inform initiatives and interventions to ensure that clinical academic careers are visible, attractive and accessible and identify areas requiring action.

Are there any risks involved?

We don't expect there to be any risks to you from taking part in this study.

Will my participation be confidential?

You have been asked to take part in this study by the funder you applied to for a research training award. The information collected from the survey will be entirely anonymous to both the funding organisations and the research team at the University of Southampton. All information collected will be kept in the strictest confidence and be secured against unauthorised access. The data from the study will be kept on a password protected computer and will be retained for 10 years in accordance with University regulations.

What happens if I change my mind?

Your participation in this study is entirely voluntary and you will be completely free to withdraw from the study at any time, without giving a reason.

What happens if something goes wrong?

If you have any concerns about the study or would like to make a complaint, please contact:

Isla-Kate Morris (Research Integrity and Governance Manager)

Email rgoinfo@soton.ac.uk

Tel: 02380 595058

Where can I get more information?

If you have any questions about the study after reading this information sheet, please contact the research team (details below).

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