

Role Description for a Patient and Public Representative (PPR) for the FIT for Screening Study

Role: Patient and Public Representative with the Cancer Screening and Prevention Research Group (CSPRG).

Person Specification: 60 – 66 years old, based in London.

Payment: Travel expenses and recognition of your time will be made in line with NIHR INVOLVE payment guidance: <http://www.invo.org.uk/posttypepublication/involve-policy-on-payments-and-expenses-for-members-of-the-public-including-involve-group-members-february-2016/>

Background

The Cancer Screening and Prevention Research Group (CSPRG)

The Cancer Screening and Prevention Research Group (CSPRG) is an internationally renowned research group based at Imperial College London. Our research focus is bowel cancer screening, surveillance and diagnosis. Through our research we hope to help make bowel cancer screening and surveillance programmes more effective and acceptable for participants and more efficient for the NHS.

Bowel Cancer Screening in England

The method used by the NHS Bowel Cancer Screening Programme (BCSP) to screen for bowel cancer is a simple stool test known as the guaiac faecal occult blood test (gFOBT), which detects blood hidden in stool. In 2018, the gFOBT is being replaced by the faecal immunochemical test (FIT) for stool.

There are a number of advantages of FIT over gFOBT:

- FIT only detects human blood. This means that this new test is not influenced by the presence of other blood in stools, such as that ingested through diet.
- FIT only needs one stool sample compared with six required for gFOBT.
- FIT provides a numerical result using a machine analyser whereas gFOBT requires human judgement of a colour change.
- FIT can be set to indicate positivity at various thresholds. This means that what is considered to be a normal or an abnormal result can be changed by altering the threshold.

- In general, the lower the threshold, the more sensitive the test will be and the more cases of cancer that will be detected.

The FIT for Screening Study

For this study, we will be examining whether a lower FIT threshold than that likely to be implemented by the BCSP detects more bowel cancers. The threshold level we have chosen to use has been adopted by several countries in their screening programmes, however no evidence currently exists to show the effectiveness of FIT at this threshold. The outcome of this study will be used to inform on whether adopting a lower threshold of FIT during bowel cancer screening could offer significant benefits to patients.

Role summary

The CSPRG are particularly interested in involving individuals in our research who have an interest in the area of bowel cancer screening. The length of involvement will be one year initially and reviewed annually. The Patient and Public Representatives (PPR) will be:

- Involved in reviewing research materials e.g. study protocol, grant applications and plain English summaries.
- Expected to attend up to two workshops.
- Providing advice to CSPRG researchers to ensure that patient and public involvement (PPI) is included throughout the study.

There is also an opportunity for PPRs to have a role in the Trial Steering Committee meeting and Data Safety and Monitoring Committee, if they wish. Full training and support will be provided throughout your involvement by the CSPRG.

Responsibilities of the Patient Public Representative (PPR)

- To attend up to 2 workshops and actively contribute to discussions.
- To review research materials such as a draft research protocol and research funding applications including commenting on the use of lay language.
- To co-design a dissemination and communication plan.
- To maintain an openness, flexibility, responsiveness and confidentiality during meetings.
- To agree a 'Terms of Reference' with the other PPR members which you will follow.
- To be willing to ask for guidance and report any concerns to the CSPRG. You will be allocated a named contact to discuss any questions or problems between meetings.
- To assist us to evaluate the impact of our patient and public involvement/engagement (PPI/E) and provide feedback to the CSPRG with ways PPI/E could be improved.

How will you add value to the study and how will you be supported?

- Your involvement will help the CSPRG to deliver high quality research, which will ultimately impact national and international policy and guidelines for bowel cancer screening.
- You will be supported to develop a range of new skills and knowledge associated with conducting a research project and bowel cancer.
- You will be supported by a small, friendly and approachable team with one member of the team appointed as a point of contact at all times. This contact will also answer any questions you may have about the study in confidence or at the team meetings.
- You will be supported and trained on all aspects of the FIT for Screening study, as well as the specific responsibilities of a PPR by the CSPRG.

Required skills and experience

Essential

- Must be reliable, friendly and approachable.
- Must be trusted with confidential information.
- Ability to work as part of a team and agree to work in a collaborative way.
- Have good communication skills and respect others' views and right to an opinion.
- Have the ability to learn and handle new ideas and information about medical research and be willing to ask questions.
- Be willing to work with the CSPRG and bring enthusiasm to the task.
- Be able to provide feedback constructively.

Desirable

- Have some understanding of clinical research e.g. have been a lay partner on a research project or have been involved in a committee that reviews research applications or a participant in a clinical trial.
- Have a broad interest and/or experience in bowel cancer screening.
- Reasonable IT skills i.e. be able to use email, review and comment on documents online.

If you are interested in participating in this work please contact **Bhavita Patel** at:

Contact Details

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