Patient information sheet

Why Join the PPI

We believe that members of the public have a right to be involved in decisions about research that may affect them and that the personal experience of patients is extremely valuable. By joining the Infection and Immunity public and patient involvement (PPI) group, you can help make a real difference to our research.

What am I agreeing to?

By agreeing to be a part of the Infection and Immunity PPI group, you are consenting for your name and contact information to be stored securely on a database at St George’s University London. This will not be shared with any third party. Scientists and Doctors conducting research at St Georges University will contact you regarding opportunities to advise on their research projects. You are not signing up nor will you be asked to take part as a participant in a research study or trial. You are also not obligated to partake in any further activity and you may withdraw from the group at any time without having to give a reason.

FAQs:

*What is patient and public involvement (PPI) in research?*

Public involvement in research is research being carried out **‘with’** or **‘by’** members of the public rather than **‘to’**, **‘about’** or **‘for’** them. This is not the same as being a participant in research and you are not signing up to be in a trial. Examples of what members of the PPI group may be asked to do are:

* offering advice to researchers to help with research ideas or projects
* comment on research documents to make sure they are clear and well-designed from a patient perspective and do not contain jargon
* undertake interviews with research participants

*Why would I want to get involved?*

You may have a number of reasons for wanting to get involved in research:

* to improve treatment services for themselves and those who come after them
* to influence what research is being done and help make research more effective
* to identify gaps in knowledge related to specific treatments or conditions which they feel need research

*What would I have to do?*

Nothing you do not want to do. It is important to understand that signing up to the Infection and Immunity PPI group places you under no obligation to partake in any further activities. You can choose what you would like to get involved in and what you would rather not. You are also free to withdraw your consent to be contacted at any time.

*Will I be paid for my time?*

This is down to each research team and is unique to the request for involvement. Many funded studies will be able to reimburse you for your time and help. This will be detailed in any request for input and it is completely up to you to choose if you still want to take part in that specific request.

*How long will I be signed up for?*

Once a member of the PPI-panel, you information will be stored for 5 years, we will then ask you if you would like to continue to be a member, otherwise your details will be removed. You are also free to leave the group at any time without giving a reason.

*Do I have to met face to face?*

Every project / request for input will be different, but the majority of meetings will likely be virtual (i.e. via telephone or video calling). Some researchers may also arrange face to face meetings, however there will always be an option to attend virtually if you would rather i.e. via telephone or video call. In many cases documents or ideas can also be shared by email or post and do not require meeting up or talking over the phone.