

## Participant Information Leaflet - Healthcare Professionals

**Study title:** An exploration of healthcare practitioners' perceptions and experiences of the occurrence of gender and sex bias in healthcare

**Researcher Name:** Andrea Heaney

You are being invited to take part in a research study to be carried out by Technological University Dublin (TU Dublin)

### Why is this study being done?

Historically women have been significantly underrepresented with regard to medical research. This is seen in research in clinical trials but also the presentation and management of conditions in clinical settings.

Medical personnel such as yourself hold a staggering amount of medical knowledge, along with years of personal experience and critical anecdotal evidence. This phase of research aims to gather this information from numerous interviews with experienced healthcare practitioners: nurses, pharmacists, GPs, specialists' doctors and women's health specialists. Interviews will be conducted with a semi-structured interview script which to elicit participants' perceptions, background knowledge and experiences with regards to women's health. Once this data is gathered, it will be analysed with thematic analysis to show common trends and areas of deficiency within women's health. From here the findings will be collected in a paper, and these findings will also help shape the future work of Andrea Heaney's PhD.

### Who is organising and funding this study?

The study is being carried out by Andrea Heaney a PhD student in the School of Computer Science at TU Dublin. The funding has come from the Science Foundation of Ireland's Center for Research in Machine Learning, ML labs.

### Why am I being asked to take part?

You are being asked to take part as you are a healthcare practitioner who has significant practical experience in healthcare. I want to understand the many factors that complicate

health and to see what elements of medicine vary with respect to gender and sex, so that I can better understand the problem at hand.

#### **How will the study be carried out?**

The study will be carried by conducting interviews, I am aware of the busy lives of healthcare practitioner and I am more than happy to work around your schedule and carry out the interview with respect to the time you have to contribute, along with a time, method of conducting an interview (In person/ Microsoft teams meeting/ phone call) and a suitable place out of any of these locations:

- At the participants place of practice
- A meeting room on the Grangegorman TUD campus.
- Virtual method (online or via phone)

#### **What will happen to me if I agree to take part?**

If you agree to take part, I will contact you to arrange a time and place most convenient to you. The interview will last approximately 30 minutes and will be recorded. After which you will be sent the transcript via the email provided. If you so wish you can omit or modify any elements of your statement.

#### **What is the withdrawal process?**

Participants are welcome to pause the interview at any point and restart at another time/date/location, they are also welcome to stop or fully withdraw from the interview at any time. This can be done verbally during the interview, or before/after the interview by emailing Andrea Heaney: [andrea.c.heaney@mytudublin.ie](mailto:andrea.c.heaney@mytudublin.ie) and requesting to be removed. Their information will be deleted from the study and if an interview is already recorded the recording/transcript will be deleted also.

#### **What are the benefits?**

Your participation will be of benefit to my research process, help me shape the next few years of my PhD and to help identify the areas of concern in this topic. I hope this and my future work, will benefit both patients and healthcare professionals.

#### **What are the risks?**

We do not perceive any risks as strict data collection, storage and management protocols will be adhered to.

### Is the study confidential?

The study will be confidential in that your name will not be used at any point in the data collection. At the start of the study, you will be assigned a 'participant id'. Only the TUD researchers will have access to the file that matches each person to their participant id. This will be kept at a secure location at TUD, and it will only be used for administrative purposes. Your contact details will be stored separately from any data we collect from you. Anything we write about the research study will not include your name or contact information. In line with the Data Protection ACT (1998) *"the data shall not be kept for longer than is necessary for that purpose of those purposes"* – section 2(1)(c)(iv) of the Act 8. All records not required will be destroyed 5 years after completion of data analysis.

I am happy to share findings of the study with you, once the study has ended and the information collected has been analysed.

### Where can I get further information?

If you need any further information now or at any time in the future, please contact:

**Name:** Andrea Heaney

**Email:** [andrea.c.heaney@mytudublin.ie](mailto:andrea.c.heaney@mytudublin.ie)