Join Our Public Advisory Panel - Help shape research into genetics, our immune system and severe infections

Role Description

Role Title: Public Advisory Panel Member
Organisation: Knight research group, Centre for Human Genetics, University of Oxford
Location: UK-wide (online meetings; optional in-person events)
Experience needed: Personal or close experience with our current research priorities (below) – no research background required.
Payment: Reimbursement for time paid at £27.50 per hour / NIHR advised day rates.
Time commitment: Initial training day, then up to two online advisory panel meetings per year (3-4 hours each including pre-meeting reading), plus optional additional activities.

About Us

Our research team is called the Knight group, led by Professor Julian Knight and based at the Centre for Human Genetics, University of Oxford. Our PPIE group includes many of the researchers from our group including Dr Michael Carter, Dr Ellie Karp-Tatham and Dr Jonathan Cattrall. We work in close collaboration with researchers both in the UK and internationally.

We primarily study infections that can make people extremely unwell (e.g. COVID-19, sepsis and dengue) and may result in admission to hospital. These infections are sometimes severe enough to require treatment in intensive care. We often focus on how someone's genes, and their immune system, may lead to more severe illness during an infection or health problems after recovering from the infection.

Role purpose

We are looking for members of the public with relevant personal experience to join our public advisory panel of 6-8 individuals.

The purpose of this panel is to bring lived experience and community perspectives into research on severe infections, the role of the immune system and genetics. The panel meets regularly online and works together with scientific researchers, helping to ensure that research studies reflect what matters to patients, families and communities.

Person Specification

We would like to hear from:

- Members of the public that have been admitted to hospital or intensive care, due to an infection. This may be a bacterial, viral, fungal or parasitic infection.
- Members of the public that are a relative of or close friends to someone that has been admitted to hospital or intensive care, due to an infection.
- Individuals with community or volunteer experience related to health, inclusion, or vulnerable groups.
- An interest in public health, infections, or genetics.
- Comfortable contributing to online group discussions (training and support available).

No research experience is required. We welcome people from all backgrounds, especially those whose voices are often missing from research.

Key Responsibilities

- Provide feedback on study plans, participant materials, public communications and research documents to ensure they can be well understood by diverse public audiences.
- Advise researchers using your lived experience.
- Review and comment on plain-language summaries of research findings.
- Support inclusion by identifying barriers faced by underserved groups
- Undertake an initial welcome and training session and then up to three online panel meetings per year lasting one to two hours.
- Optional: participate in additional ad hoc working for smaller project groups or for specific outputs.

What we offer

- Friendly induction (no prior knowledge of research needed) and ongoing support
- Payment to reimburse your time and expenses
- A chance to influence research that shapes global health

How to get involved

To register your interest, please complete the following form by accessing the link below or scanning the QR code:
Register your interest in our Public Advisory Panel



To find out more, please contact:
Professor Julian Knight
Email: knight_research@ndm.ox.ac.uk
Deadline: 1st January 2027