



## **The lived experiences of postgraduate medical training of doctors from minority ethnic backgrounds in Scotland – A qualitative study.**

### **PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET**

We would like to invite you to take part in a research study which has been designed to better understand the lived experiences of medical trainees at ST4 – ST6 levels, who identify as being from any minority ethnic (ME) background, and who are training currently within Scotland Deanery.

Before deciding if you want to take part, it is important to understand the research and how you will be involved. Please take time to read this information carefully. Please contact us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information.

#### **What is the purpose of this study?**

Differential attainment, defined as differences in exam pass rates and successful training outcomes between doctors from ME backgrounds versus white United Kingdom (UK) graduate doctors, has been documented throughout the UK. The aim of this study is to explore ME trainee doctors' lived experiences of undertaking postgraduate specialty training in Scotland.

#### **Why have I been chosen?**

We are contacting all trainees in ST4-ST6 grades within Scotland Deanery, to consider participating in this study. If you also self-identify as being from a minority ethnic background, we would be interested in recruiting you into this study, as you can help inform our work by sharing with us your beliefs and opinions.

#### **What will I have to do if I take part?**

If you agree to take part in the study, you will be invited to an introductory meeting with the lead researcher or one of the members of the research team, where further information about the study is provided, and there is the opportunity to ask any questions about the study. If you then would like to participate in the study you will be invited to take part in an interview either face to face, in a suitable place of your choice, or via MS Teams at a time that is convenient for you. We will ask you to sign a consent form, through email or we can post this out to you if you wish. Similarly, you will also be asked to fill out a short, anonymised demographics form. During the interview you will be asked some questions about your experiences and views about your educational experiences whilst a trainee in Scotland Deanery. All your responses during the interview will be recorded.

#### **How long will it take?**

The interview will take approximately 45-60 minutes of your time.

#### **What are the possible risks of taking part?**

We do not envisage any disadvantages or risks to you of taking part in this study. The discussion may take up your personal time. To counteract this, the timing of the discussion will be largely up to you. It might also bring back some difficult memories while talking with the researcher about dealing with difficult situations being a ME doctor. If this affects you, we can pause the interview as long as you wish before we resume again. If it is too hard for you to continue, we will terminate the interview. Researcher will also provide you with appropriate services if you want to talk further. If you wish, another time for the interview can be arranged when you are ready.

**Are there any possible benefits?**

You will not benefit personally from taking part. However, you will be contributing to the evidence around ME doctors' lived experiences in postgraduate training in Scotland. We believe this study will add to the wealth of knowledge and help highlight problems and challenges encountered by ethnic minority trainee doctors. This may in turn help inform the way we deliver and monitor for equitable postgraduate training through Scotland Deanery. It will also help in the development and pilot of a programme to improve the support for the trainee doctors.

**Do I have to take part?**

No, taking part is voluntary. If you would prefer not to take part, you do not have to give a reason. If you agree to take part but later change your mind you can withdraw at any time, without giving us a reason. If withdrawing, you can also choose to allow the researcher to use any data that has been collected up to that point for analysis, or to withdraw completely and all data collected from you be destroyed. If you withdraw from the study after the interview has been transcribed, it will not be possible to remove your data as it will be anonymised amongst data from other participants.

**What happens to any information that you obtain?**

The audio recordings will be securely transferred to an approved external third party for transcribing, who work in accordance with GDPR legal frameworks. The transcription of the discussion will be analysed. Your identity will be protected and kept confidential. Direct quotations will have coded information about you (e.g gender/ year of study). No other personal details will be reported. Everything you tell the researcher will remain confidential and you will not be named or be identifiable in the final write up. All information will be stored securely in a secure shared drive of the University of Aberdeen /NHS Education Scotland (NES) for up to 10 years before being destroyed.

**Will my taking part in this study be kept confidential?**

During the study, any information collected about you will be kept strictly confidential. Only the researcher and supervisor(s) will have access to this data. All electronic information collected from you will be username and password protected and stored in a secured shared drive on the University of Aberdeen /NHS Education Scotland (NES). Any hard copies will be kept in a locked cabinet of the Lead Researcher. After transcription and analysis, the data will be completely anonymised and securely stored as described above and will only be available to the research team and the sponsors who check our research. Your rights to access, change or move your information are limited, as we need to manage your information in specific ways in order for the research to be reliable and accurate. To safeguard your rights, we will use the minimum personally identifiable information possible. As stated above, findings and quotations will only be linked to coded information and there will be no personal information about you included.

Where any concerns around trainee experiences and your welfare are identified by the researcher during the interview process, we will signpost you to appropriate support systems in place within your area of work (for example staff networks and local speak up guardians), or the trainee development and wellbeing service in Scotland Deanery.

The University of Aberdeen is the Sponsor for this study based in the United Kingdom. We will be using information from you to undertake this study and will act as the data controller for this study. This means that we are responsible for looking after your information and using it properly. The University of Aberdeen will keep identifiable information about you until the study is finished. Your rights to access, change or move your information are limited, as we need to manage your information in specific ways for the study to be reliable and accurate. To safeguard your rights, we will use the minimum personally identifiable information possible. You can find out more about how we use your information <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/privacy> and/or by contacting Iain Gray, University Data Protection Officer ([dpa@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:dpa@abdn.ac.uk))

**What will happen to the results of the study?**

The transcription of the interviews will be analysed. The results of the study will be used for writing a report or a publication. This will be shared with NHS Education Scotland (NES) and may inform future education planning and decisions. Your identity will be protected and kept confidential all the time. Direct quotations will have coded information (e.g Female/Indian/Year 2 trainee). No other personal details will be reported. If you would like to receive a summary of the outcomes at the end of the project, please inform the researcher and you will be added to a mailing list unique for this purpose.

**Who has reviewed this study?**

Approval has been given by the University of Aberdeen's School Ethics Review Board (SERB), reference number: SERB/2021/10/2197, with confirmed date of approval on 23.12.21.

**Who do I speak to if I have questions about this research?**

If you would like more information or have problems with this research, please contact either Dr Charu Chopra, Associate Postgraduate Dean, NHS Education Scotland (NES) email: [charu.chopra@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:charu.chopra@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk) 0131 242 7521

or Dr Amudha Poobalan, University of Aberdeen, email [a.poobalan@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:a.poobalan@abdn.ac.uk)  
Tel: +44 1224 437866

Thank you for your time and consideration in taking part in this study.