**Faculty of Health Science**

**PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET**

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**Participant Information Sheet**

**Project title:** A cross-sectional study on skin of colour terminology in medical education

**Invitation paragraph**

This is an invitation to take part in a research project. Before you decide whether to participate, the research team would like you to understand why the research is being conducted and what it would involve for you. Please refer to the contact details below to send questions if anything is unclear.

**What is the purpose of the project?**

In dermatology related medical education and research, the images and terminology used often focus on white skin, representing a narrow spectrum of individuals’ experiences and risk excluding certain groups. This project aims to capture the types of words and descriptors medical students use to describe their own skin; and how this relates to their medical education. The research team will use this information to think about an accurate and diverse language to use in medical education and research relating, but not exclusively, to dermatology.

**Why have I been invited to participate?**

As a medical student, the research team would like you to participate in an online survey. The results of this survey will help the research team to gain insight into students’ thoughts and experiences on this topic.

**Do I have to take part?**

Taking part in this project is entirely voluntary and it is up to you to decide whether you wish to participate. If you have any questions after reading this participant information sheet please feel free to contact the research team using the details below. If you agree to take part, we will then ask you to read and sign a consent form which will be accessible through a link on the recruitment email. After reading and signing the consent form, you will be able to access the online survey.

You are free to withdraw without giving a reason up until the point at which you complete and submit your response to the survey. The research team are unable to accept withdrawal after this time due to the difficulty in identifying individual participants as the survey responses will be anonymous. You will have approximately 8 weeks after the recruitment email is sent out to sign the consent form and complete the survey.

**What will happen to me if I take part and what will I have to do?**

If you agree to take part you will be required to complete an online survey which will take approximately 10 minutes to complete.

**What are the possible disadvantages and risks involved in taking part in the project?**

The research data being investigated includes Special Category Data ie. personal data revealing racial or ethnic origin. Taking part in this project will involve you disclosing your ethnicity.

**What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

Your involvement will provide us with information to better understand medical students’ experiences and thoughts regarding language used to describe both yourselves and skin conditions. This will help the research team to develop an accurate and diverse language to use in research and medical education.

**Will my participation in this project be kept confidential?**

Your responses to our survey will be recorded electronically using the online platform Jisc from the University of Bristol institutional association. We will ask for your age, sex and ethnicity. We will not require any personally identifiable information such as your name. The research data collected through the electronic survey will be kept strictly confidential and responses will be anonymised.

**What will happen to my data?**

The research data will be stored securely on the University Research Data Storage Facility. At the end of the research project, the research data will be published on the University of Bristol’s research data repository, data.bris as restricted data. This means the research data is only made available to researchers who have applied for access and signed a data sharing agreement.

**What will happen to the results of the research project?**

We intend to publish the results of the research data in a journal and present them as a conference presentation. The research results will be shared with the University of Bristol School of Medicine and disseminated to the participants.

**Who is organising and funding the research?**

This research is being organised by the University of Bristol and the University of Nottingham. There is no specific funding for this project.

**Who has reviewed the study?**

The Faculty Research Ethics Committee.

**Further information and contact details**

If you would like further information in relation to the study or have any questions about what you are being asked to do, please email Dr Hannah Wainman: [zn19837@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:zn19837@bristol.ac.uk)

If participants have any concerns related to your participation in this study, please direct them to the Faculty of Health Science Research Ethics Committee, via the Research Governance Team, [research-governance@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:research-governance@bristol.ac.uk)