



Remote-NMR (R-NMR): Moving NMR infrastructures to remote access capabilities

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

Central University Research Ethics Committee Approval Reference: [R77838/RE002]

1. *Introductory paragraph*

Prior to the Covid19 pandemic, the overwhelming majority of NMR data collection was conducted by scientists traveling to local, national and transnational NMR facilities and sitting directly in front of the NMR console to setup data collection. The experiments were often set up together with experienced staff to ensure sample integrity, best conduct of experiments, interactive planning and peer teaching, and initial analysis of acquired data to assess the correct outcome of the experiments. Due to the lockdown restrictions in many countries during 2020-2021, this scenario had to change dramatically. The experiences of several European NMR facilities during the Covid19 pandemic have shown that remote access is feasible within the field of NMR spectroscopy. It is the aim of the Remote-NMR project to develop and exploit this type of access in full.

You are being invited to take part in the R-NMR project because you are a user of an NMR facility. Before you decide to participate in the survey, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Take time to decide whether you wish to take part.

2. *Why is this research being conducted?*

Remote access to NMR spectrometers has been implemented successfully at several NMR facilities around the EU/UK during the Covid19 pandemic. The R-NMR project is being conducted in order to collect information from NMR facility users about their NMR facilities and about their experiences using remote access so that a common protocol for remote access for all facilities can be developed and adopted by facilities across the EU/UK. We are also interested in feedback from users who have not used NMR spectrometers remotely.

3. Why have I been invited to take part?

You have been invited to complete this survey because you have been identified as a user of an NMR facility.

4. Do I have to take part?

No. It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. You can withdraw yourself from the study, without giving a reason, by advising me of this decision. The deadline by which you can withdraw any information you have contributed to the research is 31 December 2023; any data that you have provided will be deleted.

5. What will happen to me if I take part in the research?

You will be invited to complete an online survey. The survey is aimed at users of NMR facilities and will ask questions about the NMR facility you use, your experiences, if any, with remote access to NMR spectrometers and for your views on how remote access can be improved in the future. The survey will be completed without providing your name or contact email address but you will be asked to indicate in which country your NMR facility is located.

6. What are the possible disadvantages and risks in taking part?

There are no disadvantages or risks in taking part in this research except that you will need to spend some time completing the surveys (no more than 15-30 minutes).

7. Are there any benefits in taking part?

The benefits to you and to the wider NMR community by taking part in this project will be the improvement of remote NMR access across the EU/UK that will be the outcome of the R-NMR project.

8. What information will be collected and why is the collection of this information relevant for achieving the research objectives?

We will not collect any information that will directly identify you. Information that all participants provide about their NMR facility and their experiences with remote access will be included in discussions with other R-NMR participants and included in reports but this information is completely anonymous. Your IP address will not be collected.

All survey data will be stored in Oxford on a secure desktop computer (password protected and behind a firewall) during the duration of the R-NMR project (until 30 June 2025). A version of the survey will be created for longer-term storage on University servers. We intend to keep this version of the survey for 3 years beyond publication of the project.

9. Will the research be published? Could I be identified from any publications or other research outputs?

The findings from the NMR user survey being carried out online by Oxford researchers as part of the R-NMR research project will be used in a report about the current protocols in place for remote access to NMR spectrometers. This report will be circulated to other R-NMR grant participants, will be

uploaded to the R-NMR website and will be used as the starting point for other work packages in R-NMR. Individuals will not be identified in the reports. It is very unlikely that the outcomes of the surveys being carried out online by Oxford researchers will be written up for publication.

10. Data Protection

The University of Oxford is the data controller with respect to your personal data, and as such will determine how your personal data is used in the study. The University will process your personal data for the purpose of the research outlined above. Research is a task that is performed in the public interest. Further information about your rights with respect to your personal data is available at <https://compliance.admin.ox.ac.uk/individual-rights>. No personal data will be collected in this survey.

11. Who is funding the research?

Remote-NMR is funded by a grant from the European Union's Horizon Europe Research and Innovation Programme under Grant Agreement No. 101058595. Participation by U.K. partners, including the University of Oxford, is funded via the Horizon Europe Guarantee scheme run by Innovate UK, part of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI).

12. Who has reviewed this study?

This study has received ethics approval from a subcommittee of the University of Oxford Central University Research Ethics Committee. (Ethics reference: R77838/RE002).

The surveys have also been approved by the Steering Board of the Remote-NMR project.

13. Who do I contact if I have a concern about the research or I wish to complain?

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, please contact Professor Christina Redfield (see contact details in next section), and she will do her best to answer your query. I will acknowledge your concern within 10 working days and give you an indication of how it will be dealt with. If you remain unhappy or wish to make a formal complaint, please contact the Chair of the Research Ethics Committee at the University of Oxford who will seek to resolve the matter as soon as possible:

The Chair, Medical Sciences Interdivisional Research Ethics Committee;
Email: ethics@medsci.ox.ac.uk; Address: Research Services, University of Oxford, Boundary Brook House, Churchill Drive, Headington, Oxford OX3 7GB

14. Further Information and Contact Details

If you would like to discuss the research with someone beforehand (or if you have questions afterwards), please contact:

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