

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

Study title

Inclusivity in anatomy education: What does it look like and how do we achieve it?

Invitation

We are inviting you to take part in a research study. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Before you decide whether to take part, it is important for you to understand why the project is being done and what it will involve. Please ask if there is anything that is unclear, or if you would like more information. Take time to decide whether you wish to take part.

1. What is the purpose of the study?

Conversations have been started around the world about how to best approach the decolonisation of curricula. In anatomy education, there has been a Eurocentric normalisation of anatomy via textbooks and other resources that marginalises other ethnicities and under-represents healthy variation. While unconsciously done, it can have an impact on the healthcare of these under-represented people. For example, a retroverted uterus (when a uterus (womb) tilts backwards rather than forward) is a common variation, however, within the UK for example, retroversion can be perceived as a pathology. The position of the uterus can influence obstetric ultrasound and other procedures, and a lack of training and understanding around this normal variation leads to discomfort and increased morbidity.

These conversations around decolonisation have led to more overarching discussions around improving inclusivity in anatomy teaching for all protected characteristics. However, as the decolonisation movement has highlighted, understanding diversity requires an understanding of people's lived experiences and how a lack of representation is manifested and perceived.

To ensure we develop more inclusive curricula, where all groups are represented, we need to better understand what inclusivity means to diverse groups, and how we can best achieve it.

The aim of this research is to begin to identify what inclusivity means for diverse groups in order to provide a toolkit to support the development of more inclusive approaches to anatomy teaching.

This definition and perception will be influenced by culture, religion and politics amongst other factors, and as such there may not be one universal answer. Instead, the researchers hope that by including key stakeholder groups in the interpretation of these data, we can identify the nuances that can result in improved inclusion in many different countries.

The study comprises two phases. In phase 1, we will collect data via an online questionnaire. In phase 2, we will conduct online focus group interviews with participants who have previously expressed an interest during phase 1 of data collection.

2. Why have I been invited to participate?

You have been invited to take part in this study because you are either an academic teaching anatomy or a student learning anatomy as a substantive part of your university programme.

3. Do I have to take part?

It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you do decide to take part, you will be asked to sign a consent form. If you decide to take part, you are still free to withdraw at any time and without giving a reason.

Students: please note that choosing to either take part or not take part in this study will have no impact on your marks, assessments or future studies.

4. What will happen to me if I take part?

If you decide to take part in this study, you will be asked to complete an online questionnaire that should take you no more than 15-20 minutes to complete. At the end of the questionnaire, if you wish to additionally take part in an online focus group interview, you will also be asked to provide your contact details. Further details about the focus group will then be emailed to you.

5. What are the possible benefits of taking part?

Taking part in the online questionnaire will give us valuable information about inclusivity in anatomy education. In the long term, it will help us improve anatomy education with regard to important issues such as inclusivity, diversity and decolonisation. Taking part in the focus group interview will give us more detailed information and a deep insight into making anatomy education more inclusive.

6. Are there any possible disadvantages or risks of taking part?

The only disadvantage to this study is the time burden of 15-20 minutes to complete the online questionnaire. We hope this time burden is something you are willing to accommodate. Furthermore, if you decide to take part in the online focus group interview, there will be an additional time burden of up to 90 minutes. If you decide not to take part, there will be no consequence.

7. What about confidentiality?

We will not collect any personally identifiable information. However, as part of the online questionnaire, you will be required to provide some demographic data such as age, gender, ethnicity and sexuality. This data cannot be linked back to you as the questionnaires are anonymous.

All information collected will be kept confidential (subject to legal limitations) to ensure compliance with data protection legislation that researchers need to understand and follow. The data will be assigned a unique identifier that will be used to name the files. Outputs arising from the research such as scientific publications will not contain any personal data that would permit identification.

If you provide your name and contact details for participation in the online focus group interviews, this will be stored separately from your data in a password-protected file. This will be stored on a University server (OneDrive which will also be password protected). It will never be shared with others.

The focus group interviews will be recorded with your consent. However, the recordings will be destroyed after transcription. All members of the group will sign on their Consent Form that they agree that anything they hear during a group session, including personal details, they will keep confidential. In exceptional circumstances, where a disclosure is made regarding your safety or that of others, the researcher will be legally required to pass that information on to an appropriate individual or agency.

8. What will happen if I don't want to carry on with the study?

Taking part in the study is voluntary and you are free to withdraw your consent at any time, without giving a reason. You do not need to answer any questions you do not want to. If you attend a focus group, you can leave at any point. We will be happy to discuss with you what will happen to any data that has been collected up until the point of your withdrawal from the study. Since the online questionnaires are anonymous, we will not be able to withdraw your data after the submission of your responses.

You can ask to withdraw any of your data up until 7 days after your focus group interview after which data analysis begins.

9. What should I do if I want to take part?

If you decide to take part in this study, please complete the online questionnaire. You will be required to complete an online consent form. If you wish to take part in the focus group interviews, please indicate this in the questionnaire and provide your name and email address.

10. What will happen to the results of the research study?

The data collected from this study will be analysed and the results will be published. You can contact the researchers if you take part in the study and wish to see a copy of the published results. Participants will not be identified in any report/publication.

11. Who is organising and funding the research?

This research study is conducted by Dr Siobhan Moyes, Lead in Anatomy at Peninsula Medical School (PMS), Lily Evans, Anatomy Lecturer at PMS and Dr Aiden Jayanth, Acting Head of Anatomy at Brighton and Sussex Medical School (BSMS).

12. Who has approved this study?

The research has been approved by the University of Plymouth Faculty of Health, Research Ethics and Integrity Committee. The ethical review project ID for this study is 3419.

13. Who is responsible if something goes wrong? What if there is a problem?

If you have any concerns about any aspect of this study or about the way you have been approached or treated during the study, or how your information is handled during the course of the study, you should contact the lead researcher who will do their best to answer your questions. Their contact details are provided at the end of this Sheet.

14. Contact for further information?

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Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet.