**Consent Form for Participation in Focus Group Study**

**Title of Study:** Does lack of exposure to diverse skin types in medical teaching contribute to racial disparities in healthcare by undermining the confidence in diagnosing conditions on patients of colour?

**Investigator:** [Saujanya Kesavan] [3rd Year Medical Student intercalating in Policy, Communication & Ethics at UCL] [zchas45@ucl.ac.uk]

**Supervisor:** [Dr Noémi Tousignant] [ n.tousignant@ucl.ac.uk.]

**Introduction**

You are invited to participate in a focus group study *" Does lack of exposure to diverse skin types in medical teaching contribute to racial disparities in healthcare by undermining the confidence in diagnosing conditions on patients of colour?"* Before you decide whether to participate, it is important that you understand the purpose, procedures, and potential risks and benefits of the study. Please take your time to read the following information carefully.

**Purpose of the Study**

The primary objective of this focus group study is to delve into the experiences and viewpoints of clinical medical students at UCL Medical School concerning the portrayal of diverse skin types in teaching materials. The overarching aim is to extract valuable insights that can significantly contribute to the improvement of medical education practices. The goal is to enhance the confidence of future physicians in diagnosing conditions across a spectrum of skin types. This, in turn, holds the potential to elevate public health outcomes by fostering a more comprehensive and inclusive approach to medical training.Top of FormBottom of Form

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**Risks and Benefits**

Engaging in the focus group discussions may entail the sharing of personal experiences. Despite rigorous efforts to uphold confidentiality and adhere to GDPR and ethics protocols, there exists a potential risk of unintentional disclosure. On the positive side, participants stand to contribute valuable insights that can significantly enhance medical education practices, particularly in maximizing the teaching on diverse skin. This, in turn, can empower clinicians to bolster their confidence in diagnosing conditions across various skin types, fostering increased exposure and ultimately contributing to advancements in public health.

**Confidentiality and Anonymisation**

Your privacy is of utmost importance. Your identity and individual responses will be safeguarded with the utmost confidentiality, abiding by the legal provisions. As part of data security measures, all audio recordings and consent forms will be securely stored on a designated UCL hard drive, employing robust measures to prevent unauthorized access. Solely, I will have exclusive access to these recordings for the explicit purpose of this research project. The digital storage of these recordings is restricted solely to the project's duration and will be wiped out using UCL software after it has been deemed no longer necessary to keep.

To further ensure anonymity and mitigate risks, a meticulous anonymisation process will be applied during the analysis phase. No personal identifiers will be incorporated into any publications or reports derived from this research. Subsequently, as part of our commitment to data protection, the information will be systematically wiped from the UCL hard drive using authorised UCL software once its necessity for the project ceases. This comprehensive approach not only adheres to legal and ethical standards but also emphasises the secure and responsible handling of your data throughout the entire research lifecycle.

**Voluntary Participation and Withdrawal**

Participation in this study is entirely voluntary. You have the right to withdraw at any time during the study without penalty. Your decision to participate or withdraw will not affect your current or future relationship with UCL. After completing the study, you will still have the option to request the withdrawal of your data if needed.

**Expectations**

By participating, you are expected to share your experiences and opinions regarding the representation of diverse skin types in medical education. Your input will be valuable in understanding the challenges and opportunities in this aspect of medical training. The focus will be on your opinions and experiences regarding this and looking at the relationship between lack of exposure and confidence when diagnosing conditions on a variety of skin types.

**Contact Information**

If you have any questions or concerns about the study, please contact Saujanya Kesavan at [zchas45@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:zchas45@ucl.ac.uk). If you have any concerns about your rights as a participant, you may contact the UCL STS Department Manager at [sts-dm@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:sts-dm@ucl.ac.uk)

**Consent**

By signing this form, you indicate that you have read and clearly understood the information provided on the information sheet & this consent form, and you voluntarily agree to participate in the focus group study. You also acknowledge that you can withdraw from the study at any point without facing any penalty.

Participant’s Full Name:

Participant’s Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:

Please retain a copy of this consent form for your records. Thank you for your participation.

[Researcher’s Signature] [Date]

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