1. **Participant Information Sheet**

**Examining Student Experiences and Challenges to Engagement with Reflective Practice in the Undergraduate Curriculum at UCL Medical School**

##### **May 2018**

###### I'd like to invite you to take part in a research project I am conducting as part of my doctoral studies at UCL Institute of Education.

###### **Who is conducting the research?**

My name is Dr Faye Gishen and I am inviting you to take in part in my research project; Examining Student Experiences and Challenges to Engagement with Reflective Practice in the Undergraduate Curriculum at UCL Medical School am a clinical academic, which means that as well as being a consultant physician, I am also the Academic Lead for Clinical and Professional Practice at University College London Medical School (UCLMS). I am also a doctoral student (EdD) at UCL. I have done some medical research in my role as a doctor in the past, but this is the first research I am doing educational research (within the social sciences). My research is being funded solely by me, so no other companies or organisations have a vested interest in this.

I am investigating how reflective practice is used in undergraduate medical curricula, focusing specifically on UCLMS at this point in my research. My overall goal is to consider how reflective practice methods used for medical students during their training, may contribute to their future professional practice once qualified.

I very much hope that you would like to take part in a conversational interview. This information sheet will try and answer any frequently asked questions you might have about the project, but please don’t hesitate to contact me if there is anything else you would like to know at f.gishen@ucl.ac.uk.

**Why am I doing this research?**

###### I have an interest in exploring the role of reflective practice in medical students and doctors, and I am hoping that this work may help me start to discover student perceptions of reflective practice and the most effective ways to teach it. My goal is to use your opinions and comments to help me improve the reflective practice curriculum at UCLMS.

###### **Why are you being invited to take part?**

###### I hope to recruit 8-10 fifth year medical students with an interest in discussing reflective practice as part of their medical training and interactions with patients.

###### **What will happen if you choose to take part?**

###### Completion of questionnaires and a focus group will happen at a central London location convenient to the group.I will record (audio) the focus group, which will be conducted by a trained final year UCLMS medical student. He or she will begin by outlining the project, defining reflective practice in this context and outlining instructions for participants. You will then be asked several predetermined questions about your views on reflective practice. There will be no one else present, and when transcribed your answers won’t be attributed to you.

###### Examples of questions that you will be asked are;

Can you briefly tell us a bit about yourself and what brought you to this focus group?

What do you understand by reflective practice and its purpose?

What are your experiences of reflective practice at UCLMS?

Over the last 5 years at medical school, do you think you’ve become more or less reflective and why?

What do you think may be the challenges to engagement with reflective practice?

If you could change one thing about the reflective practice curriculum, what would it be and why does it need changing?

Do you think reflective practice has shaped how you approach patients and if so, how?

Is there anything else we’ve missed?

###### Depending on how the conversation develops, there may be some additional related questions. The answers that you give will be thematically analysed by 2 researchers to allow the commonly occurring themes to emerge.

###### **Will anyone know I have been involved?**

###### This is a confidential study and details of participants will not be made public nor included in the write up of the research which will be a 20,000 word report to be included in my final doctoral thesis. When I write up this research, I may use quotations given by participants, but they will be anonymous. Your personal details will be protected by ensuring your identity is not revealed in my doctoral assignment, final project report or any publication.

###### **Could there be problems for me if I take part?**

###### We may be discussing some sensitive issues, and if you are upset or affected by anything we discuss or feel uncomfortable at any point of the interview, you are entitled to stop at any point, either resuming after a break, or not at all. I can give you details of support options should this need arise. As a participant, you need to know that your answers are confidential, transcribed anonymously and never passed to another party.

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

###### As stated above, the interview data that I collect from you will inform the report which will be a 20,000 word report to be included in my doctoral thesis. I can share the report with you if you wish. I will seek your consent on the attached consent form to use your anonymised data in published articles or presentations at academic conferences. Let me know if this is not the case, ideally before the focus group.

###### The focus group data will be stored on an encrypted memory stick, transcribed and transcribed data will be securely stored until the end of my doctorate, for 10 years. Data will not be shared with a third party.

###### **Do I have to take part?**

###### It is entirely up to you whether or not you choose to take part. I hope that if you do choose to be involved then you will find it a valuable experience.

###### **If you would like to be involved, please send a short statement outlining your interest in the project to** f.gishen@ucl.ac.uk **by 1st May 2018. We will go through and sign the consent form when we meet for the focus group, and I attach a blank version for your information.**

###### **If you have any further questions before you decide whether to take part, you can reach me at f.gishen@ucl.ac.uk. I am happy to speak about the study in person or on the telephone if you have any questions.**

###### **This project has been reviewed and approved by the UCL IOE Research Ethics Committee**

###### **Thank you very much for taking the time to read this information sheet.**