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## **Study Title: Researchers of Black Heritage and Primary Care Research Leadership in England**

### **PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET**

Research Ethics Reference: FMHS 218-0624  
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We would like to invite you to take part in a research study. Before you decide, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. One of our team will go through the information sheet with you and answer any questions you have. Please take time to read this carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Ask us anything that is not clear.

#### **What is the purpose of the research?**

Although there is a perceived under-representation of researchers of Black heritage in primary care research, evidence on where and why this is apparent, is lacking. This project, therefore, seeks to explore the representation of researchers of Black heritage at different career stages within the field of primary care, and to examine the barriers and facilitators to retention and career progression in academic primary care for this group of researchers.

In so doing, this project will not only bridge a knowledge gap, but will also provide key recommendations for leaders of the NIHR's School for Primary Care Research, and similar entities, in improving the diversity and representativeness of researchers in primary care.

#### **Why have I been invited to take part?**

You have been invited to take part in this research because we have identified you as a researcher whose experience and/or perspective would be a vital contribution to our study.

The inclusion criteria are primary care researchers who identify as of Black heritage, and those in senior leadership positions as Heads of Primary Care Department (Professors and above).

We will be recruiting up to 30 participants in this study.

#### **Who is a primary care researcher of Black heritage**

A primary care researcher of Black heritage is any individual who:

- Self-identifies as of Black heritage (i.e. Black, Black British, Black Caribbean, Black African and any other Black, Black British, or Caribbean as based on the 2021 UK Census classification of ethnic groups) and
- Is engaged in active research related to primary care settings in the UK.

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

It is up to you to decide if you want to take part in this research. We will describe the study and go through this information sheet with you to answer any questions you may have. If you agree to participate, we will ask you to sign a consent form and will give you a copy to keep. However, you would still be free to withdraw from the study at any time, without giving a reason, simply let the research team know.

### **1. What will happen to me if I take part?**

If you agree to take part, you will be asked to be part of a one-to-one interview with the researcher, which will last about 45 minutes. The interview will be held online using Microsoft Teams, and you will require access to a smart phone, laptop/computer, or tablet with internet connection.

The interview will typically be conducted during working hours, or another time specified by the participant. In any instance, it should be such a time where your uninterrupted participation can be guaranteed.

During the interview, the researcher will have a series of open-ended questions. Topics to be covered include: your experiences in your professional role as a primary care researcher, your views on barriers and facilitators for career progression for primary care researchers of Black heritage to the role of Professor or Chair.

### **2. Are there any risks in taking part?**

We do not foresee any risks in your participation in this study. You do not have to talk about anything you do not want to and can take a break at any time. Anything you say in the interview will be kept in strict confidence by the researcher and all information you provide will be anonymised before use.

### **3. Are there any benefits in taking part?**

There will be no direct benefit to you from taking part in this research, but your contribution may help us better understand and assess the representation of researchers of Black heritage in primary care research.

### **4. Will my time/travel costs be reimbursed?**

There will be no financial compensation for your participation in this study. As the interview will occur online preferably at a place of work, we do not anticipate you to incur any additional costs (e.g., transportation costs) while participating in the study.

However, you will be given a shopping voucher (such as an Amazon voucher worth £30) as a token of appreciation for your time and contribution to the research.

### **5. What happens to the data provided?**

In accordance with data protection law, the University of Nottingham is the Data Controller for this project. This means that we are responsible for making sure your personal information is kept secure, confidential, and used only in the way you have been told it will be used. All researchers are trained with this in mind, and your data will be looked after in the following way:

- Your digital consent form will be password protected and kept securely on University of Nottingham servers accessible only to the researcher. Consent forms will not be stored with study data. You will be offered a copy of the consent form for your own records.

- Personal identifiable information will be deleted as soon as they are no longer required unless you consent otherwise.
- Audio recordings will be stored on the University's servers and will be password protected and only be accessible to the members of the research team. Audio recordings will be transcribed by a University-approved transcription service. Once complete and checked by the research team, the audio recording will be permanently deleted. Any identifiable information will be anonymised in transcripts, and you (your audio file and transcript) will be assigned a unique study code. Any quotes we use in study reports, will not contain any identifiable information.
- All research data and records will be stored for a minimum of 7 years after publication or public release of the work related to this research.
- We would like your permission to also use anonymised data in future studies, and to share our research data (e.g., anonymised transcripts) with other researchers in other Universities and organisations both inside and outside the European Union. Sharing research data is important to allow peer scrutiny, re-use (and therefore avoiding duplication of research) and to understand the bigger picture, in particular areas of research. All personal information that could identify you will be removed or changed before information is shared with other researchers or results are made public.

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

Even after you have signed the consent form, you are free to withdraw from the study at any time without giving any reason. Any personal data will be destroyed.

If you withdraw, we will no longer collect any information about you or from you, but we will keep the anonymous research data that has already been collected and stored as we are not allowed to tamper with study records. This information may have already been used in some analyses and may still be used in the final study analyses.

#### **7. Who will know that I am taking part in this research?**

Data will be used for research purposes only and in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations. Any audio recordings and electronic data will be anonymised with a code as detailed above. Electronic storage devices will be encrypted while transferring and saving of all sensitive data generated during the research. All such data are kept on password-protected databases sitting on a restricted access computer system and any paper information (such as your consent form, contact details and any research questionnaires) would be stored safely in lockable cabinets in a swipe-card secured building and would only be accessed by the research team.

Under UK Data Protection laws, the University is the Data Controller (legally responsible for the data security), and the Chief Researcher of this study (named above) is the Data Custodian (manages access to the data).

You can find out more about how we use your personal information and to read our privacy notice at: <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/utilities/privacy.aspx/>

Designated individuals of the University of Nottingham may be given access to data for monitoring and/or audit of the study to ensure we are complying with guidelines.

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

The research results will be presented to the Board of the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) School for Primary Care Research (SPCR) as an official report. Accessible formats

of the results will also be given to participants of the study. Again, study results will be published in peer reviewed journals.

#### **9. Who has reviewed this study?**

All research involving people is looked at by an independent group of people, called a Research Ethics Committee, to protect your interests.

#### **10. Who is organising and funding the research?**

The project is funded by the UK's National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) School for Primary Care Research (SPCR)

#### **11. What if there is a problem?**

If you have a concern about any aspect of this project, please speak to the Principal Researcher Dr Ralph Kwame Akyea, who will do their best to answer your query. The researcher should acknowledge your concern and give you an indication of how he/she intends to deal with it. If you remain unhappy and wish to complain formally, you can do this by contacting the FMHS Research Ethics Committee Administrator, Faculty Hub, Medicine and Health Sciences, E41, E Floor, Medical School, Queen's Medical Centre Campus, Nottingham University Hospitals, Nottingham, NG7 2UH or via E-mail: [FMHS-ResearchEthics@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:FMHS-ResearchEthics@nottingham.ac.uk).

Please quote ref no: FMHS 218-0624

#### **12. 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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