

Are you interested in cancer research?

Join us to share your views on the information we collect about research participants to monitor if our studies are including people from all backgrounds.

No research experience needed.



Personal characteristics provide **information about a person**, including things like age, gender, ethnicity, and education. Collecting this information in research studies can help us **understand who is taking part**, and **who is not**. Knowing this can help us make changes to our studies if needed, to ensure **wider access** to research.

At the moment, we **collect a small amount of information about personal characteristics** in research studies. This means **it is hard to know if our research is including people from all backgrounds**. To address this, the **DISTINCT project** aims to agree a standard set of questions that we can ask study participants to collect personal characteristics with the goal of making our research more inclusive in future.



We are organising discussion groups with members of the public to talk about the question set, to **make sure we are asking the right questions, in the right way**.

We will be running four groups, each focusing on different topics:

1. Ethnicity, language, and religion
2. Health, disability, and unpaid care
3. Sexual orientation and gender identity
4. Education and employment

These will run on the below available dates:

Friday 5th July	14:00-16:00
Tuesday 9th July	12:30-14:30 / 19:00-21:00
Wednesday 10th July	13:00-15:00 / 19:00-21:00
Thursday 18th July	13:00-15:00
Friday 19th July	11:00-13:00



Groups will be online (via Teams) or in person at Queen Mary University of London in Whitechapel (further details will be provided). You are only required to use your camera and microphone and use your real name if you feel comfortable to do so.

The discussion groups will have around 8-10 people, including researchers. Virtual meetings will last 2 hours, and in-person meetings will last 3 hours. We will offer attendees a voucher that can be used online and/or in high street stores of your choice and reimbursements for any travel expenses.

To express interest, please:

1. Email Jane and Cherelle at ccsped-ppi@qmul.ac.uk, or call on 07786 624372.
2. Tell us which group(s) you would like to attend, in preference order, and why these topics interest you most.
3. Indicate which dates you are available/not available for.
4. Whether you have a preference to join an in-person or online discussion group.
5. Let us know about any accessibility or support needs.

Meet the Discussion Group Leads



Karen Poole
Clinical Trial Programme
Manager, ICR-CTSU



Emma Lidington
Postdoc Behavioural
Scientist, CPTU QMUL

This is a joint project led by the Clinical Trials and Statistics Unit at the Institute of Cancer Research and the Cancer Prevention Trials Unit at Queen Mary University of London. Contact details you provide will be shared between researchers at the two organisations. They will be used to arrange discussion groups and provide updates on this project and future PPI opportunities. Contact details will be stored securely according to the Institute of Cancer Research's privacy policy (<https://www.icr.ac.uk/legal/privacy>) and Queen Mary University of London's privacy policy (<https://www.qmul.ac.uk/privacy/#:~:text=We%20do%20not%20sell%20your,%2C%20or%20required%20by%2C%20a> w).