



UCL

RESOME Information Sheet

Title of Project: Developing reporting guidelines for social media research

This study has been approved by UCL's research ethics committee (ID: 14687/004)

We would like to invite you to take part in this study. You should only take part if you want to. Before you decide whether to take part, it is important for you to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Please ask us if anything is unclear or if you would like more information.

What is the purpose of the study?

The aim of this study is to develop reporting guidelines for social media research. To do this, we plan to carry out a series of Delphi surveys and host an online consensus meeting to develop the items on the reporting guidelines.

Why have I been invited?

We are inviting relevant stakeholders to take part, including statisticians, epidemiologists, research methodologists, experts in conducting or evaluating social media interventions (to form at least 25% of the group), journal editors, and patient and public representatives.

Do I have to take part?

It is up to you to decide to join the study. If you decide to withdraw you will be asked what you wish to happen to the data, you have provided up to that point.

What will I have to do if I take part?

If you choose to take part, we would ask you to complete 2-3 online surveys which should take around 15 minutes to complete. The survey will ask to what extent you agree or disagree each item should be included in the reporting guidelines. There will be free-text options for each item for you to provide comments, suggestions and alternative phrasings. The first survey will include some questions on your demographic characteristics which will be used for reporting the composition of the expert panel in publications. You will also be invited to take part in an online consensus meeting where you will discuss the reporting guidelines with other participants. The surveys will take place in September to October 2021 and the consensus meeting will take place in November 2021.

You can withdraw yourself from the study at any point without giving a reason. You can withdraw your personal data and any time, and any data related to the research can be deleted up to two weeks after each point of data collection. After that, the data will be reported in aggregate, and it will not be possible to delete.

What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?

This study carries very little risk for the participants. There are no right or wrong answers to the questions and participation is voluntary.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

By contributing to this research, you will be part of the development of social media research reporting guidelines, which aim to improve the reporting and applicability. There is also an opportunity to network with other researchers and professionals in this area of research.

What if there is a problem?

If you have a concern about any aspects of the study you should in the first instance contact Dr. Aradhna Kaushal who will do her best to answer your questions. If you would like to discuss a problem with someone not directly involved in the project, you can contact the chair of UCL's research ethics committees (ethics@ucl.ac.uk).

Will my taking part in this project be kept confidential?

Yes. All information which is collected about you during the course of the research will be confidential. It is not possible to anonymise the data you provide as a pivotal aspect of the study will be to provide individual and personalised feedback on the results of the survey and how they compare to the wider group. Instead, personal data will be pseudonymised with a number assigned to each participant and will be stored securely on UCL file systems. The online consensus meeting will be video recorded in order to ensure the notes from the meeting are as accurate and complete as possible and will be deleted as soon as the summary of the meeting has been agreed and finalised. Our procedures for storage, processing, handling and destroying the information you give us are in line with the General Data Protection Regulation (2018). For more details on how we collect, process and store your information, please read our [privacy notice](#).

What will happen to the results of the research project?

We will report the findings from the study in a peer-reviewed academic journal. The reporting guidelines will be published on the Equator Network website, in addition to the [RESOME study web page](#). You will not be identified in any reports or publications from the study, but if you wish we can list your name on our website as a contributor.

Who is organising the research?

This work is being delivered by the National Institute for Health Research Policy Research Unit in Cancer Awareness, Screening and Early Diagnosis.

Contact for further information

Researcher: Dr Aradhna Kaushal (aradhna.kaushal.14@ucl.ac.uk)

Principal Researcher: Dr Christian von Wagner (c.wagner@ucl.ac.uk)

University College London Data Protection Officer: Alex Potts (a.potts@ucl.ac.uk)

Thank you for reading this information sheet and for considering taking part in this research study.