

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

Use of organ-on-a-chip technology

You are being invited to take part in a survey. Before you decide, it is important for you to understand why the survey is being done and what it would involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Take time to decide whether or not you wish to take part and remember that your participation is voluntary.

What is the purpose of the survey?

The purpose of this survey is to gather information on the use and application of organ-on-a-chip technology, providing insight into progress in the field. The data collected will be used internally for future project planning in the area and anonymised data may be published as a report on the NC3Rs website or in an appropriate scientific peer reviewed journal, and/or presented at scientific meetings.

Why have I been invited?

You have been invited because you have been identified as an end-user of organ-on-a-chip technology and are therefore qualified to provide information on your use of the technology.

Do I have to take part?

It is up to you to decide whether to take part. If you do decide to take part you will be asked to confirm your consent prior to beginning the survey. If you decide to take part you are still free to withdraw at any time and without giving a reason.

Am I eligible to take part?

You are eligible to take part in this survey if you are currently using, have used or are considering using organ-on-a-chip technology. We welcome responses from those working in industry (pharmaceutical, cosmetics, chemical, consumer goods sectors etc), for contract research organisations (CROs), in academia and those working in other roles, such as regulators.

Confidentiality/ intellectual property

Participants should not compromise themselves by breaching any non-disclosure agreements (NDAs), company policy, confidentiality requirements, in completing the survey.

Expenses and reimbursement

There is no financial incentive to take part in this survey.

How much time will the survey take?

The survey asks you to provide information on your use of organ-on-a-chip technology. The survey is split into different sections depending on your current use of the technology and will take no more than 30 minutes to complete.

What will I have to do?

You will answer a series of questions asking about your current use of organ-on-a-chip technology including the organ(s) being used and their application(s), the current and future impacts on the 3Rs

(replacement, reduction and refinement of animals in research), and barriers and opportunities for adoption.

What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?

There are no anticipated risks to you if you take part in the survey, nor are there likely to be any adverse effects.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

There are no direct benefits to you taking part; however, your involvement will help us learn more about how organ-on-a-chip technology is being used and will inform future project planning in the area.

What if there is a problem?

If you have any problems during the survey, please contact the primary researcher.

Will my taking part in this survey be kept confidential?

Yes, this survey can be completed anonymously, and it will not be possible for us to link your answers back to you, unless you provide us with your contact details (optional). If you choose to provide your contact details (name and email address) these will be kept confidential and will not be used for any purpose except in the context of the survey.

What would happen to the results of the survey?

When the survey has been completed, we will analyse the data we have collected, and the data will be used internally for future project planning in the area. The anonymised findings may be published in a report on the NC3Rs website or in an appropriate scientific peer reviewed journal, and/or presented at scientific meetings.

Can I withdraw my data after I have participated in the survey?

This will only be possible if you provide us with your contact details. If you choose not to provide your contact details there will be no links between your identity and your anonymous data, so we will be unable to withdraw your data.

Who is organising and funding the research?

This study is organised and funded by the NC3Rs.

Who has reviewed the survey?

Ethics approval has been given by the Social Science Research Ethical Review Board at the Royal Veterinary College (URN SR2020-0203).

Who can I contact for further information?

If you have any questions, then please contact the primary researcher:

Dr Kate Harris

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