



University of Sussex

Research project: *Biosport: Links between elite sport and new biomedical technologies, and ethical implications.*

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

We would like to invite you to participate in this research. Participation is entirely voluntary; choosing not to take part will not disadvantage you in any way. Before you decide, it is important to understand why the research is being done and what it will 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.

Aims of the research.

The aim of the research is to shed light on the way in which innovative, molecular and 'regenerative' medical techniques may be being used or tested in the world of elite sports performance and injuries. The research studies cycling and football in particular, and especially musculoskeletal conditions, and focuses on the UK set in the context of international sports organisations and practices. The aim is to provide evidence for development of medical services in this field, to clarify ethical issues that may be raised, and to enable public and specialist discussion of these as a basis for future policy. The research lasts three years and is based at the University of Sussex in collaboration with the Royal Holloway University of London and Swansea University.

Why have I been invited; do I have to take part?

You are affiliated to an organisation or network that is involved in the development, discussion and/or use of relevant types of biomedical innovation, or are involved in sports where these techniques may be considered, tested, advocated or used. It is entirely up to you whether you want to take part in the study. If you decide to take part, you will keep this information sheet and sign a consent form (below) if you take part in an interview or discussion group. You will be free to withdraw from the study, from an interview or from a group discussion at any time without giving a reason.

What will I be asked to do if I take part?

We might invite you to take part in an interview, typically a face-to-face interview lasting from 30 minutes to about one hour; on occasion it might be a shorter telephone or online 'Skype' interview. Interviews will be audio-recorded, with your permission, and will usually take place in your place of work or a public place such as conference venue. The topics covered will typically include: your role with particular innovations and their sports context; your knowledge of developments in the field; your/your organisation's interactions with sports policymakers and medical technology developers and companies. We may also:

- Invite you to participate in a small 'focus group', to be led by a member of the research team and with permission of participants, audio-recorded.
- Re-contact you by email or telephone for updates or to ask for further details.

- Request copies of documents that are relevant to your work in the field.

Will taking part in the study be confidential?

All information and views provided by you will be anonymised so that you cannot be identified. Your name will be removed from audio filenames, and transcripts will be labelled with a unique code. Some transcription will be done by an external contractor who has signed a confidentiality agreement. Information and views you provide will never be divulged to or discussed outside the research team except anonymously. Anonymised data may be shared with other researchers after the end of our research project.

What are the possible disadvantages and risks, and benefits of taking part?

There are no physical risks of the study. If you agree to take part, it is possible that you will experience some inconvenience (e.g. making time for an interview). You do not have to provide any information that might cause anxiety nor answer any question that might do so. Participating in the study may increase your job satisfaction by providing an opportunity to reflect on practices and developments relevant to you. The research as a whole may benefit the future health and welfare of practitioners of elite sports, and related service providers and technology developers.

What will happen to the results of the study?

A final report of the study findings will be given to the study funder and a summary will be sent to each participant. The findings will be published in peer reviewed academic journals, sports 'trade' and lay publications and discussed anonymously in conferences and with various policy stakeholders; in these, we may use anonymised quotations from your comments, interviews or meetings/focus groups attended by you.

Who is responsible for and who has reviewed the research?

The study sponsor is the University of Sussex. The study has been reviewed by the official Social Sciences & Arts Research Ethics Committee (REC) of the University of Sussex.

Further information or concerns about the research

If you have any questions or require more information about this study, you may contact the Lead Researcher using the contact details below for further advice and information. If you believe that this study has harmed you in any way, you may contact the Lead Researcher or the Chair of the REC noted above.

Thank you for taking time to read this information.

Contact:

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