



**THE LAY ADVISORY PANEL FOR ORAL AND DENTAL RESEARCH –  
INFORMATION SHEET**

**What is the Academic Directorate of Oral and Dental?**

The Academic Directorate of Oral and Dental is sited at the Charles Clifford Dental School. The directorate undertakes a wealth of Oral and Dental research throughout the University, although principal sites include the Royal Hallamshire Hospital, Western Park hospital and University of Sheffield Biomedical Sciences.

The Academic Directorate of Oral and Dental is interested in finding out more about diseases of the entire head and neck region, and how to best treat patients. The key research areas we may wish to consult the panel on includes head and neck cancer, bacteria of the mouth, tissue engineering, oral neuroscience and dental public health.

**What is the purpose of the Lay Advisory Panel?**

The main purpose of the Lay Advisory Panel is to ensure that research carried out within the Directorate is patient-focused.

**Who can become a member of the Panel?**

Members of the panel can be former or current patients who have:

- Had a noteworthy course of dental treatment
- Had specific dental problems that have required hospital-based care
- An interest in establishing patient benefit from our key research areas
- Been involved in clinical trials or dental research studies

***Panel members may also be carers or relatives of patients with any of the above conditions.***

**If I became a Panel member what would I have to do?**

As a Panel member you would be expected to take part in discussions at Panel or project meetings to ensure that patient and carer priorities are reflected. You may also be involved in:

- helping to develop patient information literature
- advising on the recruitment of research participants into clinical trials
- advising on ways of sharing research results
- representing the lay public at research meetings
- involvement in identifying research priorities

**How often would I be expected to attend?**

Panel Meetings are held once every two months (6 meetings per year), with communication by email and/or telephone in between meetings if necessary.

## **Do I need any qualifications?**

You do not need any formal qualifications to become a Panel member, although experience of serving on a committee or links with patient networks would be an advantage.

You will be given induction training as well as ongoing training and support. If required, you may have a mentor who may be a member of staff or an experienced Panel member.

## **Why do it?**

People decide to get involved in research for a variety of reasons for example:

- You may have personal knowledge and experience which you would like the research to take into account
- You may want a chance to give something back and help influence research to benefit others.
- You may like the opportunity to develop personal skills or to help to bring about improvements in health care

## **What would I get out of it?**

People who have been involved in research have described many positive benefits of getting involved which include: learning about research and the topic being researched, developing a broader understanding of why research matters, developing practical skills, the satisfaction of making a contribution and helping to improve services<sup>1</sup>.

## **Who do I contact for further information?**

If you would like further information about the Oral and Dental Lay Advisory Panel, please contact either:

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If you have internet access and would like to read more about getting involved in research generally, please visit the INVOLVE website <http://www.invo.org.uk/>

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<sup>1</sup> From the National Institute for Health Research, INVOLVE, Public Information Pack  
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