

Participant Information Leaflet

Study title: *Assessing Fertility Knowledge Amongst Medical Students*

Introduction

This study is being conducted to examine students' knowledge surrounding fertility and infertility to attempt to identify areas for improvement in undergraduate education. You are being invited to take part in a research study to be carried out by Dr Róisín McConnell. This research is being undertaken as part of a MD degree in UCD within the School of Medicine.

You don't have to take part in this study. You can change your mind about taking part in the study any time you like. You don't have to give us a reason. Your decision to participate will not impact your academic progression.

What is this research about?

Aim to assess fertility knowledge amongst GPs, Obstetrics and Gynaecology trainee doctors plus undergraduate medical students. Fertility knowledge is assessed using a 34-item questionnaire on both natural conception and assisted human reproduction.

Why am I doing this research?

Lack of formal education into fertility and specifically the age-related fertility is commonly sighted as deficient within medical training. Fertility education often makes up less than 10% of reproductive education curriculum. Less than 15% of German medical students felt their undergraduate education was sufficient for counselling patients in fertility.

How will your data be used?

If you agree to take part, all your responses will be collected anonymously, no identifying data will be collected.

What will happen if you decide to take part in this research study?

You will complete an initial section asking you to complete demographic data such as your age, gender (if you wish to disclose) and year of study. The fertility knowledge questionnaire will then follow, consisting of 34 questions, taking approximately 10 minutes to complete.

How will I protect your privacy?

No identifying data will be collected, all responses will be collected anonymously. You will not be asked specifically for any information which could be used to identify you.

What are the benefits of taking part in this research study?

The benefit is that your responses provide valuable information to guide undergraduate education.

What are the benefits to the researcher if I take part in this study?

Provide information for comparison between GPs, Obstetrics and Gynaecology trainees plus undergraduate medical students. Data collected will help to identify areas for improvement within undergraduate medical education.

What are the risks of taking part in this research study?

Completing this study may make you think about your own future fertility which you might find upsetting or worrying. A list of websites is included at the end of the leaflet which can provide support.

Can I change my mind at any stage and withdraw from the study?

You have the right to refuse to participate, however once the questionnaire is completed and submitted it will not be possible to remove your responses as all data will be collected anonymously.

How will I find out what happens with this project?

The results of this study will be submitted for publication for a peer-reviewed scientific journal.

Principal investigator's contact details: RMcConnell@merrionfertility.ie

Co-investigators : Dr Jacqui Clifford, Dr Louise Glover, Dr David Crosby & Prof M Higgins

Data Controller Identity: UCD Data Protection Officer.

Information for DPO for UCD is <https://www.ucd.ie/gdpr/about/roleofthedpo/> (contact via gdpr@ucd.ie).

Data Protection

The data will be stored anonymously for 5 years to allow comparison and publication within a peer reviewed paper. If at any stage, you feel your data has not been processed in keeping with legal requirements you have the right to lodge a complaint with the Data Protection Commissioner (<https://forms.dataprotection.ie/contact>).

Support Websites

 Fertility & Infertility Supports	
HSE Fertility Problems Support <i>Treatment pathways, information & guidance</i>	 Helpline: 041 685 0300 Callsave: 1850 24 1850  hse.ie – fertility support
National Infertility Support & Information Group (NISIG) <i>Peer support, information & advocacy</i>	 nisig.com
Irish Fertility Network <i>Education, support groups & fertility info</i>	 irishfertilitynetwork.ie
Fertility Counselling Association of Ireland <i>Locate accredited fertility counsellors</i>	 Specialist fertility counselling support
Fertility Europe <i>European resources & patient advocacy</i>	 fertilityeurope.eu