**Title of the study:**

**An Evaluation of Radiographer/Radiologist Education and Learning in Artificial Intelligence: Focus groups**

Investigators: Dr Sonyia McFadden, Dr Laura McLaughlin, Prof Ciara Hughes, Prof Raymond Bond and Dr Jonathan McConnell

Doctoral Student: Geraldine Doherty

Information Sheet and Consent for Participants

**Invitation to participate in the above study**

You are invited to participate in an SoR CoRIPS funded Ulster University research project. Before deciding whether you wish to be involved in the study it is important you understand what the research is for and what it will require you to do. Please read the following information and do not hesitate to ask questions about anything that may not be clear to you. Make sure you are happy before you decide to participate. Thank you for taking the time to read this invitation.

**What is the purpose of the study?**

 Artificial Intelligence (AI) is rapidly being implemented in many aspects of medical imaging and radiotherapy. Whilst there are numerous studies pertaining to the capabilities of these tools, and opinions and attitudes to their introduction within the realm of healthcare, little research has been undertaken to examine the requirements for educational provision for imaging staff and students. This research project seeks to interview the key stakeholders – that is you, radiographers/radiologists, trainees and students, and the educational institutions providing imaging degrees, to begin to understand the existing knowledge of AI among staff. The project seeks to enable discussion around what level of education is needed and how best to facilitate this learning.

**Project Aim:**

To determine the current education and training medical imaging staff receive on AI internationally.

**To determine the following objectives:**

* The current awareness and use of AI in daily life and medical imaging amongst staff and students
* If there is a need for training on AI and the preferred level, method of delivery and content of training desired
* Current provision of AI at undergraduate and postgraduate level in medical imaging qualifications

**If I agree to take part, what is involved?**

Focus groups will be in person or online, and comprise a mix of staff and students facilitated by a member of the research team. Group size may vary but will contain no more than six participants each. Each session should last no longer than 90 minutes and will be audio recorded.

You will be asked some basic questions to capture demographic information and indicate your level of experience in the medical imaging field. A range of talking points derived from the initial survey data will be introduced for open discussion.

If you register to take part in this phase of the study, your identity will be known to the facilitator and other group members, as you are part of a focus group. You will not be named or identified in work stemming from the study, other than as ‘a participant’.

**Do I have to take part?**

Your participation in this study is voluntary and you are able to withdraw at any point without any given reason.

**Will my taking part in this study be kept confidential?**

All data will be stored securely and will be made available only to persons directly involved in conducting the study. No reference will be made in oral or written reports that could link you to the study. The results of the study will be used to further

research. All information generated from this study will be kept in accordance with the Ulster University regulations. This will involve all participant data being stored within a data protection office for a minimum of 10 years following the study.

**What if something goes wrong?**

As this study has been carefully planned and approved by the Ulster University Ethics Committee, it is extremely unlikely that something will go wrong during this study. However, you should know that the university has procedures in place for

reporting, investigating, recording and handling adverse events and complaints from study volunteers. In addition the university routinely insures for its staff to carry out research involving people. Further information on the complaints procedure can be

found at the University’s ‘‘Research Ethics and Governance’’ webpage (https://www.ulster.ac.uk/\_\_data/assets/pdf\_file/0011/75638/Complaints.pdf/\_nocache).

Any complaint or concerns should be made, in the first instance, to the Chief Investigator identified for this particular study (contact details are below); complaints will be treated seriously and reported to the appropriate authority. The Chief Investigator will try their best to resolve this concern or complaint, however should this attempt fail the Research Ethics and Governance should be contacted (contact details below).

**Who is organising the funding for this research?**

This study is being funded by the Northern Ireland Department for Employment and Learning and CoRIPS and will form part of a PhD study being undertaken at the Ulster University.

**How do I go about participating?**

You have received this information sheet as you indicated you would like to participate. If this is still the case, please read and sign the consent form. A member of the research team will contact you in due course with further details.

If you have any questions at any time about the study or the procedures, you may contact Geraldine Doherty via email or phone:

**Email:** doherty-g49@ulster.ac.uk **Tel:** 07874371106

**Address:** Room BC-04-141, Ulster University, Belfast campus, York Road, Belfast, Co. Antrim, BT15 1ED

**Further information:**

Thank you for reading this information sheet, if you would like further information about the research study please contact:

**Chief Investigator**

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