



NUFFIELD DEPARTMENT OF
PRIMARY CARE
HEALTH SCIENCES



**Centre for
Research Equity**
through Pharmacy, Communities and Healthcare



July 2024

Genes & Health (Queen Mary, University of London): Research

The Association of Pharmacy Technicians UK are working with Professor Mahendra Patel with an innovative opportunity for Pharmacy Technicians to support a health equality study, working beyond traditional boundaries.

Study Aim:

The study has the aim of identifying new ways of improving health for Bangladeshi and Pakistani people in the UK.

Genes & Health is a not-for-profit long-term study of 100,000 people aged 16 and over with and without health problems who regard themselves as of Bangladeshi and Pakistani origin. In the UK as a whole these ethnic minority groups have five times the rates of diabetes than the rest of the population and suffer poorer health by a number of other measures including cardiovascular disease and mental health. By gaining more information on the genes involved in health and disease and by understanding the differences in their function we hope to be able to begin to cure or reduce the effect of the disease and identify better (or optimise existing) treatments to help prevent new onset of disease. Genes & Health will bring equality and the benefits of genomics in modern medicine to our currently under-research-represented local communities.

Full information can be found here: <https://www.genesandhealth.org/>

Request:

In order to help reach this population, we'd like to onboard **10-15 Pharmacy Technicians** working in **independent community Pharmacies** within our region (*Banbury, Oxford City, Reading, Slough, High Wycombe and Aylesbury*) who could help recruit eligible participants on site and within their communities.

Participant Involvement:

It's a very simple study for both participants and recruiting sites - participants will be required to give consent, complete a 1 page questionnaire, provide a saliva sample and agree to be contacted with details about further potential stage 2 studies if applicable to them. This should take around 10 min to complete.

Pharmacy Involvement:

- Attend training:
 - NIHR Good Clinical Practice (GCP) - online (4 hrs)*
 - Genes and Health Study training (1hr).
- Display study posters and promote on pharmacy website or social media platforms.
- Provide a study pack, oversee participant consent and saliva sampling.
- File consent form in site file (if paper).
- Post sample to laboratory.
- Community outreach activities - liaise with local community leaders / groups and actively recruit in the community.



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All saliva kits, site files and promotional materials will be supplied via the study team.

Remuneration:

We have secured funding from [CRN Thames Valley and South Midlands](#) to make this attractive and viable to run in Pharmacies within the Thames Valley and South Midlands.

Reimbursement will be provided for:

- Sites will receive £22 for each participant that they recruit**
- 5 hours of training (hourly rate)
- Flat fee of £100 to support time taken for community outreach planning
- Flat fee of £50 to cover any local travel expenses for community outreach clinics / events

Pharmacy site target: Min. 38 participants. No maximum.

In order to secure the funding, we require sites to identify their lead, complete the training and recruitment their first participant by the end of August 2024.

To find out more or express an interest in this study, please contact myself at mahendra.patel@phc.ox.ac.uk and my colleague joanne.carter@nihr.ac.uk .

Many thanks,

Professor Mahendra G Patel

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**Please note that completion of the NIHR GCP training will help to build your research infrastructure and would enable the staff member in the pharmacy to take part in future clinical trials. It is recommended to refresh this training every 2-3 years to keep up with best practice. The NIHR provide a free e-learning resource for this.*

***Please note, sites will need to sign a contract with the Thames Valley and South Midlands CRN for payment purposes.*