

Participant Information Form

Project Title:

The feasibility and acceptability of Pre-Eclampsia Screening in Australia, using non-invasive AI retinal analysis.

Researcher

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Project Aim

The aim of this research is to investigate the feasibility and acceptability of pre-eclampsia screening in Australia using non-invasive AI retinal analysis.

General Outline of the Project

The project will aim to improve the pre-eclampsia screening that pregnant women receive, in Australia. The information gained from the research will be used to evaluate the views of pregnant women and health professionals on the acceptability, feasibility and pathways to care of retinal imaging as a screening test for conditions such as pre-eclampsia and other hypertensive disorders of pregnancy. The project does not require participants to have any eye tests.

This project is funded through the 2026 Early career researcher seed grant, from the University of Canberra.

Participant Involvement

Participants who agree to participate in the research will be asked to join an on-line focus group –via an on-line platform such as ZOOM. Each focus group will take approximately 60 minutes.

1. The focus groups will be recorded, but no-one will be identified by name.

2. In addition to the recording, I will take hand-written notes during the focus group.
3. The research takes place during the pregnancy or after a recent pregnancy.
4. There will be a few demographic questions such as date of birth, and gestation. This information will be deleted from the interview, so there is no identifying information with the interview notes.

Participation in the research is completely voluntary and participants may, without any penalty, decline to take part or withdraw at any time without providing an explanation.

Benefits of Participation

You may benefit by participating in this research through discussing your views with the researcher and there may be benefits to pregnant women in the future.

Risks of Participation

In sharing some personal information, you may feel uncomfortable. You don't have to share anything you do not want to. You do not have to explain why you do not want to share information. If you unexpectedly feel uncomfortable, we can pause the focus group, and I will stay online after the group ends if there are any issues you wish to discuss. If the interview brings distressing memories, we can refer you to some expert support services.

Confidentiality

Only the researcher will have access to the individual information provided by participants. Privacy and confidentiality will be assured at all times as far as allowed by law by:

- Phone numbers will be kept separate to interview information and destroyed after data collection is completed.
- The researcher will de-identify all personal information when transcribing the interviews. Video recording images will only be used during the interviews and destroyed once the data collection is complete.
- Your information, such as your age, will only be used for the purpose of this research project and it will only be used in the overall results separate from the interviews, except as required by law. Data will be stored securely and confidentially in accordance with the university data management plan.
- The research outcomes may be presented at conferences and written for publication. However, in all these publications, the privacy and confidentiality of individuals will be protected.

Anonymity

Focus group recording and transcripts will be anonymous, however, focus group facilitators will be aware of the identity of participants. The shared nature of the focus group may limit anonymity. The views shared by

participants in focus groups will be heard by the lead researcher. The research outcomes will be presented in a publication and/or presented at conferences and written up for publication. However, in all these publications, the privacy and confidentiality of participants will be protected.

If you decide to leave the research project, we will not collect additional personal information from you, and any personal information already collected will be removed to ensure that results of the research project can be measured properly and to comply with the law. You should be aware that data collected up to the time you withdraw will form part of the research project results. If you do not want them to do this, you must tell the researchers before you join the research project.

Data Storage

The information collected will be stored securely on a password protected computer throughout the project and then stored at the University of Canberra for the required five year period after which it will be destroyed according to university protocols.

Future Research

If you agree, the information collected during the conduct of this research may be used in future research projects on related research areas. Any future use of your data will comply with any conditions imposed by the Human Research Ethics Committee of the University of Canberra.

Ethics Committee Clearance

The project has been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee of the University of Canberra (HREC – insert number here - available when new application is created in Ethics Portal).

Queries and Concerns

Queries or concerns regarding the research can be directed to the researcher.

Contact details are at the top of this form.

If you have any complaints or reservations about the ethical conduct of this research, you may contact the University of Canberra's Research Ethics & Integrity Unit team via telephone 02 6206 3916 or email humanethicscommittee@canberra.edu.au or researchethicsandintegrity@canberra.edu.au

Consent Form**Project Title**

Insert title here

Consent Statement

I have read and understood the information about the research. I am not aware of any condition that would prevent my participation, and I agree to participate in this project. I have had the opportunity to ask questions about my participation in the research. All the questions I have asked, have been answered to my satisfaction.

Please indicate whether you agree to participate in each of the following parts of the research (please indicate which parts you agree to by putting a cross in the relevant box):

£ Yes £ No Complete a demographics questionnaire.

£ Yes £ No Participate in a focus group with the researcher.

£ Yes £ No Agree to have the focus group recorded.

£ Yes £ No Agree to be photographed or video recorded.

£ Yes £ No Agree to the information being used in future research

Name.....

Signature.....

Date

A summary of the research report can be forwarded to you when published. If you would like to receive a copy of the report, please include your mailing (or email) address below.

Name.....



Address.....

Email: