



## **Participant Information Sheet for UK Medical Students**

UCL Research Ethics Committee Approval ID Number: 19683/002

**Title of Study:**

**AUGMENT**

**Department:**

University College London (UCL) Division of Surgery and Interventional Sciences

**Name and Contact Details of the Researcher(s):**

Arjun Nathan ([arjun.nathan.11@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:arjun.nathan.11@ucl.ac.uk))

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**Name and Contact Details of the Principal Researcher:**

Dr. Arjun Nathan [arjun.nathan.11@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:arjun.nathan.11@ucl.ac.uk)

**1. Invitation**

We invite you to take part in a research study. In this study, we are assessing whether virtual surgical theatres can be a feasible learning tool. We are aiming to assess whether surgical operating theatres can be streamed virtually to teach medical students.

**2. What is the project's purpose?**

Access to theatre time in many medical schools has been significantly reduced in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. This study offers the opportunity for students to gain access to otherwise

limited theatre experience and to receive specific, virtual teaching from experts in the field of surgery. We have an ultimate aim to improve medical education and knowledge from the research we carry out.

**3. Why have I been chosen?**

We hope to better understand the role of virtual teaching methods in the undergraduate teaching of surgical exposure. We are choosing medical students from all year groups across all medical schools in the UK.

**4. Do I have to take part?**

Your participation in this study is completely voluntary. If you do decide to take part, you will be given this information sheet to keep (and be asked to sign a consent form). You can withdraw at any time without giving a reason and without it affecting any benefits that you are entitled to. If you decide to withdraw you will be asked what you wish to happen to the data, you have provided up to that point and you have the option to permanently delete the storage of your data. You can withdraw up to 2 weeks after completion of questionnaire without giving a reason and without it affecting any benefits that you are entitled to. After a period of 2 weeks, data analysis will commence, and data may not be withdrawn

**5. What will happen to me if I take part?**

Firstly, you will be asked to fill out a questionnaire prior to receiving teaching about surgical theatre exposure and confidence. Next, you will be enrolled within a teaching series on Proximie.com, an online software that allows surgeons and medical students to collaborate virtually. During teaching sessions, the surgeon will guide you through a pre-recorded operation. The surgeon will deliver a teaching session on the operation by questioning you and fellow students live, whilst using on-screen annotations to point out key structures. You will be able to interact with the surgeon using voice and chat, however, will not be on video during the session.

Based on personal preference, availability, and time of registration, you will be enrolled to a teaching group. We plan to hold 4 teaching sessions throughout the year. Post-teaching questionnaires will then be distributed for each teaching case to assess your improvement in knowledge, confidence, learning opportunity and interest to pursue surgery.

A further qualitative survey, asking you about your experience using the online platform (Proximie.com) will be sent after all 4 teaching sessions.

For any concerns, further support may be available through the principal investigator (Arjun Nathan) and help can be signposted via the research team to your medical school if required.

**6. How will questionnaire responses be used?**

Your questionnaire responses during this research will only be used for analysis and for illustration in conference presentations and lectures. All responses be anonymised. No other use will be made of them without your written permission, and no one outside the project will be allowed access to the original responses. Your anonymised research data may be used by others for future research purposes. No one will be able to identify you if this data is shared.

**7. Will my taking part in this project be kept confidential?**

All the information that we collect about you during the course of the research will be kept strictly confidential. You will not be able to be identified in any ensuing reports or publications. All answers will be anonymised, the data will be collected and handled in an anonymised and protected way. Participants have the right to withdraw from the study at any time or withdraw their data at any time. All data captured as part of this study will be secured in encrypted password protected drives only accessible to the research team.

**8. Limits to confidentiality**

Please note that assurances on confidentiality will be strictly adhered to unless evidence of wrongdoing or potential harm is uncovered. In such cases the University may be obliged to contact relevant statutory bodies/agencies.

**9. What will happen to the results of the research project?**

The results from this research project will be analysed and the data may be published or used as the basis for further research. The results may be used as a basis for further research. Participants will be directed to the NSTS website (<https://nsts-ed.com/research-projects/>) to the research tab where the link to the published results will be available.

**10. Local Data Protection Privacy Notice**

**Notice:**

The controller for this project will be University College London (UCL). The UCL Data Protection Officer provides oversight of UCL activities involving the processing of personal data, and can be contacted at [data-protection@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:data-protection@ucl.ac.uk)

This 'local' privacy notice sets out the information that applies to this particular study. Further information on how UCL uses participant information can be found in our 'general' privacy notice:

For participants in health and care research studies, click [here](#)

The information that is required to be provided to participants under data protection legislation (GDPR and DPA 2018) is provided across both the 'local' and 'general' privacy notices.

The categories of personal data used will be as follows:

- Name
- Email address
- Age
- Sex
- Medical school

- Year of study

The lawful basis that would be used to process your *personal data* will be performance of a task in the public interest.

*Your personal data will be processed so long as it is required for the research project.* we will anonymise the personal data you provide we will undertake this, and will endeavour to minimise the processing of personal data wherever possible.

If you are concerned about how your personal data is being processed, or if you would like to contact us about your rights, please contact UCL in the first instance at [data-protection@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:data-protection@ucl.ac.uk).

**11. Who is organising and funding the research?**

N/A

**12. Contact for further information**

Please contact Man Kien Hang ([zchamkh@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:zchamkh@ucl.ac.uk)) for further information.

**13. Concerns or Complaints** If you do have any concerns or wish to register a complaint please contact the principal investigator Arjun Nathan ([arjun.nathan.11@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:arjun.nathan.11@ucl.ac.uk)). If the response is lacking or not satisfactory please contact UCL Research Ethics Committee ([ethics@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:ethics@ucl.ac.uk))

**Thank you for reading this information sheet and for considering to take part in this research study.**