**Patient/public advisers needed**

**Have you been hospitalised with Crohn's disease, colitis, bowel cancer, diverticulitis, or an abdominal cavity infection? Or are you a close relative or friend who has cared for such a person? Then the University of York would like your views on a new research project.**

**Adults of any age, any background and any walk of life are welcome to join.**

**What is the research about?**

When a bowel gets damaged, gut bacteria may leak into the space around it (the abdominal cavity). This can cause serious infections, which are a big concern. Doctors may need to remove the damaged area of the bowel and they need to prescribe antibiotics to kill any gut bacteria in the abdominal cavity.

Unfortunately, in up to half of patients the original infection comes back again or they develop another infection. This means that they may need a second round of treatment, including antibiotics and/or an operation.

There are indications that a longer course of antibiotics could help prevent the need for a second round of treatment. We are working with NHS hospitals to find out if this is indeed the case. In our study, we will look at how patients fare after taking a longer course of antibiotics (28 days) in comparison to patients who take antibiotics courses of 7 to 18 days, which is the current standard.

**How can I help?**

We are inviting you to join a patient/public advisory group that will consist of about eight members. They will include people who have been hospitalised with Crohn's disease, colitis, bowel cancer, diverticulitis, and close relatives and friends who have cared for such patients. These conditions are all associated with a risk of abdominal infections. Some people may have had an abdominal cavity infection, however direct experience with abdominal cavity infection is not essential. ~~.~~

We will ask you for your views on the project from your personal perspective. Initially, the focus will be on how to recruit the 1166 participants needed for this study.

You will be discussing the best way to help patients decide if they want to take part. We will also ask for your insights and comments on other aspects of the study, including: the best way to measure results and tell others about our findings.

**How much time will it take?**

The project will run from January 2021 until June 2026.

We would like you to join as a patient/public advisor for at least one year.

Around the first and second week of December 2021, there will be a 1-2 hour introductory meeting plus a 1-2 hour group discussion. From 2022 onwards, there will be approximately four meetings per year.

All meetings will be held via Zoom. We will offer support with the use of Zoom and individual conversations to those who cannot attend or prefer telephone calls.

**How will I be supported and rewarded?**

You will have a designated contact person to arrange the support you need to fulfill your role as patient/public advisor.

You will receive payment for attending group meetings. Payments are in line with National Institute for Health Research guidelines. These include: £25 for activities that require about 1 hour of involvement and £75 for half day activities.

**How can I join?**

For more information and to register your interest to become a patient/public advisor, for this project, please email: karen.glerum-brooks@york.ac.uk