**Opportunity to join as a public contributor on the COPD and Assistive technology research study.**

**Study funder:** National Institute for Health and Care Research, School for Primary Care Research (NIHR SPCR)

**Study aim:**

The study aim is to find out whether assistive technology can improve health, wellbeing and quality of life of people with COPD and how getting and using assistive technology can people to live more independently.

By assistive technology, we mean devices developed for people with disability or for those with difficulty in performing everyday routine activities. Assistive technology is wide-ranging from falls sensor alarms to home adaptations like stair lifts and includes digital technology.

**How can you help?**

We would like to invite 5-6 people from various different ethnic groups such as White ethnic group and ethnic minorities such as people from Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Black African and Black Caribbean communities and people from mixed ethnic backgrounds to join the study team, who are:

* Living with COPD who may also have other multiple long term health conditions and they have experience of either getting or using assistive technology
* Caring for a person with COPD (you may be a family member or friend) with experience of arranging assistive technology support for them.

**What will your role be?**

Your lived experience will bring a different perspective to the study team which will help ensure the study we carry out is relevant and suitable for people with COPD, carers of people with COPD, and the wider community.

The role may involve:

* Attending 10-15 study meetings, possibly starting in mid-March 2023
* Reading and giving feedback on study documents, including language recommendations
* Suggesting ways to publicise the study to reach people with COPD and carers of people with COPD i.e., accessible formats and languages
* Testing the interview questions in a mock interview
* Providing feedback on study findings and suggesting best ways to publicise them to reach the wider community

We will offer any support that you may need in the role.

**What is the time commitment of involvement?**

The study duration is 18months (1 April 2023 – 30 September 2024). There will be about 10-15 meetings in total over the 18month period. We may ask you to read some study documents in between meetings.

You can decide the number of meetings that you would like to attend.

The meetings can be face to face at a location of your convenience, by telephone or online. Any travel expenses will be covered, if required. The meetings may last up to an hour.

We will offer a £25 voucher for your time and contribution for each meeting (lasting up to an hour).

We will offer a £15 voucher for reading and providing feedback on study documents (this may take up to 30 minutes). Your feedback can be sent by post or by email.

**How you can get involved or ask questions?**

Please email Ratna Sohanpal (study lead) r.sohanpal@qmul.ac.uk or call 07939 296667 Monday-Friday.

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