

***“Improving patient care by finding the most effective way to freeze and store stem cells.”***

*Changing how we store, and freeze stem cells may help to improve the outcome for patients receiving stem cell transplants by reducing time spent in hospital waiting for engraftment or reducing the toxic side effects of the cryopreservative currently in use. We are working on improving the techniques used to freeze and store stem cells and lymphocytes to maximise their biological effectiveness while minimising side effects to patients. Some of the improvements we could make are as simple as reducing the volumes of frozen cells or using alternative cryopreservatives to Dimethyl Sulphoxide (DMSO). However, we must ensure that any changes to established NHS processes are properly evaluated prior to being introduced and that the benefits are proven. To that end, we are developing new quality control assays that will increase our knowledge about the cells so that we can be confident that we fully understand the impact of any changes we make, thereby ensuring the safety and quality of the cells in our care.*

**Activity:**

1. *Firstly, to complete a questionnaire from home. This should take you no longer than an hour, and £25 for the completion of this activity is available.*
2. *Secondly, to attend an in-person meeting at the NHSBT Barnsley Centre, for approx. (2-3 hours). **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2025** start time **12:00** (midday), finish time has not been confirmed at this time.*
3. *Payment-for-time will be available, at the rate of £25 per hour (for the duration of the meeting/event and will not cover your traveling time). Travel expenses will be covered as per usual, and a lunch will also be provided.*

Event Address: **NHSBT Barnsley Centre**

If you are interested in this opportunity, please email us at: [PPAG.Research@nhsbt.nhs.uk](mailto:PPAG.Research@nhsbt.nhs.uk) and we will contact you regarding registering for this opportunity.

Best wishes,

Lucy

**Lucy Elvidge (Née Kershaw)**

*Patient & Public Involvement & Engagement (PPIE) Officer*

*Statistics & Clinical Research - NHS Blood & Transplant*

***Please note that my working days are Monday to Wednesday.***

**X (formerly Twitter):** @nhsbt\_rd

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