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**The VR-PAIN Project**  
*Technology in Physiotherapy Education Project*

**Information Sheet- Patient Representatives**

My name is Brona Fullen, I am an Associate Professor in the UCD School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science. I am undertaking a research project that is developing virtual reality clinical scenarios to support the development of clinical education skills in pain management in Physiotherapy programmes in three universities across Europe. The **VR-PAIN** project (*Use of technology in Physiotherapy education*) is funded by the Higher Education Authority Erasmus Plus programme.

**What is this research about?**

The VR-PAIN project aims to improve pain science clinical reasoning skills in Physiotherapy Programmes in three universities across Europe by developing virtual reality scenarios.

To help inform the development of these new virtual reality scenarios we are seeking feedback from people living with chronic pain (pain for more than 6 months) about the skills they believe are necessary for Physiotherapists to have and how these skills can be integrated into the scenarios. We wish to have an equal number of males and females and aged between 20-60 years with a range of chronic pain conditions e.g. migraine, chronic low back pain, neck pain. The study has received ethics exemption from the UCD Human Research Ethics committee (LS-C-23-67-Fullen).

**Why are you doing this research?**

Including the opinions and feedback from patient representatives with a range of ages, genders, chronic pain diagnoses and years with chronic pain (pain for more than 6 months) is essential to inform teaching, and this feedback approach is used every year on the BSc Physiotherapy curriculum.

**How will the data be used?**

The feedback we receive from all stakeholders will be aggregated, anonymised and incorporated into the development of the new virtual reality scenarios. All information will be treated in the strictest confidence, and you will not be identifiable in any way.

**What will happen if I decide to take part in this research study?**

If you wish to learn more about the study or decide to take part in the study please contact the principal investigator Brona Fullen (contact details at the end of the leaflet). She will arrange a suitable time to discuss the study by phone or answer any questions you have by email, whichever you prefer. Once all your questions have been answered, if you still wish to participate you will be asked to complete a short demographic form (age, chronic pain diagnosis, gender) and informed consent form which will be sent by email using Survey Monkey. The online workshop will be held on zoom on **Monday 17th April 2023, 2-4.00pm**

We will record the workshop to help with summarising the discussions. The recording will be downloaded from the zoom cloud and stored on UCD google drive. Participants can choose if they wish not to have their camera on during the workshop. Participants will also re-label their zoom name to the code number



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assigned to them for the project. The workshop will be transcribed within 2 weeks and the recording will then be deleted in line with UCD policy.

The workshop last 2 hours maximum

In total the workshop will include Physiotherapy students, up to six people living with pain (patient representatives) and 6-9 academic staff from the participating universities.

The Primary investigator (Brona Fullen) is leading the organisation of the workshop along with the two partners in the VR-PAIN grant.

The format of the workshop is as follows:

- |               |                                                                           |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2.00-2.05pm   | Introduction                                                              |
| 2.05-3.05pm   | Separate focus groups for students, people living with pain and academics |
| 3.05-3.15pm   | Short break                                                               |
| 3.15pm-3.45pm | Feedback from each group to the whole workshop                            |
| 3.45pm-4.00pm | Summary and conclusions                                                   |

People living with pain will be asked to discuss the following questions:

How was your experience being treated by physiotherapy for your pain in terms of:

- the examination and explanation given about the process
- being able to tell your story, did you feel listened to and understood
- did the physiotherapist give you enough time to discuss your concerns and what your expectations are from them
- did the physiotherapist educate you about what your problem was, what you needed to do, and why it was important to do it

(ii) What was good about your interaction

(iii) What could have been better

(iv) In terms of us teaching physiotherapy students what you think is most important for them to know

At the same time physiotherapy students will be asked about what topics and clinical reasoning skills they need for treating people living with pain, and academics will discuss how new clinical reasoning skills can be incorporated into the virtual reality clinical scenarios

### **What will happen if I decide not to take part in the study?**

Nothing will happen if you decide not to take part in the VR-PAIN project. You will be thanked for your time and you will not be contacted again



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### **What will happen if I decide to withdraw from the study?**

You can withdraw from the study at any time, up to the point of data anonymization, as once the data has been anonymised it will not be possible to withdraw your data.

### **How will you protect my privacy?**

Maintaining your privacy is of the utmost importance. Once you agree to participate in the study you will be assigned a code number. A master sheet of name and code number will be held by the primary investigator in an encrypted file on a password protected desktop computer in the primary investigator's locked office. Participants demographic data (name, age, diagnosis of chronic pain) will be collected using Survey monkey, de-identified and stored on the primary investigators password protected laptop computer. Only project partners will have access to this anonymised document. Demographic details will not be shared, nor will any participant be identifiable in any way in any publications or presentations. All data about the study will be destroyed in 3 years once the study is completed and has been published in line with UCD policy.

### **What are the benefits of taking part in this research study?**

There are no direct benefits to participants in the study. However, it will assist greatly in how we develop new pain science modules. In the longer term we hope this will translate into Physiotherapy graduates having greater skills to manage people living with pain.

### **What are the risks of taking part in this research study?**

There are few risks to participating in the VR-PAIN study.. Potentially you may not find the session valuable.

### **How long will the data be retained?**

The data will be retained for 3 years following completion of the VR-PAIN project or until all publications have been exhausted. It will be subsequently destroyed.

### **What if I have any further questions?**

If you have any further questions and / or are interested in taking part please contact the Primary Investigator Brona Fullen using the contact below.

Thank-you for your consideration.

Brona Fullen, PhD, MSc, BSc, Associate Professor,  
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UCD Centre for Translational Pain Research, University College Dublin

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