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

### **Information Sheet- People Living with Pain**

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.

As part of the development process for three new virtual reality scenarios we are seeking feedback from people living with chronic pain (pain for more than 6 months) on the content and format of the case studies. 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-23-81-Fullen).

#### **Why are you doing this research?**

Including the opinions and feedback from people living with pain 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 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 one-day workshop will be held in person in University College Cork Physiotherapy School on **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2023, 10-2.45pm**

The VR PAIN study will cover public transport costs to and from University College Cork, one night's accommodation close to the workshop venue. Coffee and lunch will be provided during the workshop. In total the workshop will include Physiotherapy students / recent graduates, up to six people living with pain and 6-9 academic staff from the participating universities.





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The Primary investigator (Brona Fullen) is leading the organisation of the workshop along with the two partners in the VR-PAIN grant (Dr Joseph McVeigh and Professor Harriet Wittink).

The format of the workshop is as follows:

10.00am	<b>Opening and Welcome:</b>
Session 1	<b>Setting the context:</b> Overview of VR-Pain project Pain in the curriculum mapping exercise Clinical reasoning in the curriculum Feedback from online focus groups
10.45am	Coffee
11.00am Session 2	<b>Case study 1: Patient with acute low back pain</b> <b>VR-PAIN team will present the draft story board of case study 1</b> <b>Facilitated round table exercise: Students / recent graduates, academics, clinical educators, people living with pain review case study 1 and feedback.</b> (focus on case study, avatar (tutor) and clinical reasoning)
11.45am	<b>Case study 2: Patient with chronic low back pain</b> <b>VR-PAIN team will present the draft story board of case study 2</b> <b>Facilitated round table exercise: Students / recent graduates, academics, clinical educators, people living with pain review case study 2 and feedback.</b>
12.30pm	Lunch
1.30pm	<b>Case study 3: Patient with acute pain after surgery</b> <b>VR-PAIN team will present the draft story board of case study 3</b> <b>Facilitated round table exercise: Students / recent graduates, academics, clinical educators, people living with pain review case study 3 and feedback.</b>
2.15pm Session 3	<b>Review and summarise</b>
2.45pm	Close



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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 virtual reality cases you will be asked to comment on:

1. Were the virtual reality patients able to tell their story, did they feel listened to and understood
2. Give us your feedback on the physiotherapy student's communication approach
3. Do the consultation processes reflect their general experience of a physiotherapy appointment?

### **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

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

You can withdraw from the study at any time

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

Maintaining your privacy is of the utmost importance. 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 arising from the workshop. 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 or you may find the discussion reflects on your personal experience of previous physiotherapy. If you feel upset you may leave the workshop at any time. If you have further questions about your care you should contact your General Practitioner



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## **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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