

Participant Information Sheet

Study title: Researcher attitudes on products from animal-origin in research (RAPTOR)

Chief Investigator: Professor Valerie Speirs

You are invited to take part in a research study. Before you decide if you want to participate, it is important that you understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read this information sheet carefully and discuss it with others. We are looking for people to complete a survey about the use of animal-based products in research. Please ask if anything requires further clarification. Thank you for reading this.

What is the purpose of the study?

Use of animal-based products in research is very common particularly in cell culture however there many ethical issues around how these products are obtained. We are currently developing a reproducible model for breast cancer cell culture to reduce and eliminate animal-based products as far as possible. As part of this project, we want to understand the use of animal-based products in research, and researcher opinions on this and animal-free alternatives. Following the government announcement regarding the phasing out of animal testing (<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/animal-testing-to-be-phased-out-faster-as-uk-unveils-roadmap-for-alternative-methods>), this is a good time to ask researchers about their use of animal-based products in research and barriers to adopting animal-free alternatives. We are asking participants to complete an anonymous online survey to gather this information. This should take around 15 minutes to complete.

Why have I been invited to take part?

You have been invited to take part in this study because you are a biological laboratory-based researcher. We are seeking people who use animal-based products in their research projects. This includes antibodies, foetal bovine serum (FBS) and attachment factors. We want to understand the level of use of animal-based products in research projects and researcher attitudes to adopting animal-free alternatives.

Do I have to take part?

Participation in this study is completely voluntary. This participant information sheet has been produced to help you decided if you wish to take part in this study. It is up to you whether you wish to take part. You may want to talk to the research team about the study and any questions you may have. At the start of the survey there will be a

statement about consent, by clicking yes, you are consenting to taking part in the survey.

Once you have completed the survey you will be unable to withdraw from the study. If you do not complete the survey or close your browser without submitting the survey, this data will not be included in the analysis. This is at no detriment to you. You can contact the research team using the contact details at the end of this information sheet.

How do I give my consent to participate in the study?

On the opening page of the survey there will be statement asking if you consent to participate and process your data.

What does taking part involve?

We are asking participants to complete an online survey hosted by SNAP surveys, an online survey tool, about their use of animal-based products, in particular FBS in research and their opinions on this. All data collected will be anonymous and cannot be linked back to you.

Are there any risks with taking part?

We do not anticipate any risks associated with this survey.

Are there any benefits associated with taking part?

There is no direct personal benefit from taking part. This survey aims to understand the use of animal-based products in research and the opinions of those researchers. Your views will help shape future research.

What happens after I complete the survey?

After you have completed the survey and the survey closes, the data will be analysed by the research team. All data will be anonymous.

How will we use information about you?

We will not collect any data about you.

How will we use your data after the study ends?

We will use anonymised quotes in our analysis, but these cannot be linked back to you. All survey data will be stored on a secure University server. We will keep the survey responses for a maximum of 5 years and then will be securely destroyed.

Where can you find out more about how your information is used?

You can find out more about how we use your information:

- by sending an email to f.r.saunders@abdn.ac.uk, or
- at www.abdn.ac.uk/about/privacy/

How will I find out about the results of the study?

Once we have collected and analysed the information from the survey data, we plan to generate the following output:

- Conference and poster presentations
- Original research articles
- Presentations for public engagement events

Who is funding and sponsoring the study?

The study is funded by Animal Free Research UK and is sponsored by the University of Aberdeen.

Who has reviewed the study?

This research project has been approved by SERB (the School Ethics Review Board; School of Medicine, Medical Sciences and Nutrition); Reference: 10049795

Contact Details

If you have any general queries, require further information about the study or would like to withdraw your consent to participate, please contact the research team:

Email: f.r.saunders@abdn.ac.uk

Phone: 01224 437454

What if something goes wrong?

If you have a complaint or concern about any aspect of the research, in the first instance you should email or ask to speak to Professor Valerie Speirs (Valerie.speirs@abdn.ac.uk, 01224 437361) who will do her best to answer your questions. If you remain unhappy and would like to complain formally, you can do this by contacting the University of Aberdeen Research Governance team: researchgovernance@abdn.ac.uk.

Thank you for reading and considering this study