Participant Information Sheet
Department of Medicine
Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, University of Auckland
22-30 Park Ave, Grafton, Auckland 1023, New Zealand

Project Title: Television depictions of illness and perceptions of illness
Name of Principal Investigator: Professor Nicola Dalbeth
Name of Co-investigators: Professor Keith Petrie, Dr Rachel Murdoch

RESEARCHER INTRODUCTION
Dr Rachel Murdoch is a research fellow at the University of Auckland and Professor Nicola Dalbeth is a professor at the University of Auckland. We are currently doing a research study within the Bone and Joint Research Group in the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences.

AN INVITATION
You are invited to take part in this study. We are investigating how watching television shows affects how people think about illnesses. You have been invited because you have participated or showed an interest in previous research we have done and agreed to be contacted about further research opportunities or because you have replied to an advertisement about the research.

Whether or not you take part is your choice. If you don’t want to take part, you don’t have to give a reason. If you want to take part now, but change your mind later, you can pull out of the study.

This Participant Information Sheet will help you decide if you’d like to take part. It sets out why we are doing the study, what your participation would involve, what the benefits and risks to you might be, and what would happen after the study ends. We will go through this information with you and answer any questions you may have. You do not have to decide today whether or not you will participate in this study. Before you decide you may want to talk about the study with other people, such as family, whānau and friends. Feel free to do this.

This study is funded with the assistance of a grant from the New Zealand Rheumatology Association (NZRA).

To be included in the study you must be aged 18 years or older and be able to complete a questionnaire in English. People who are unable to complete a questionnaire in English for any reason would be unable to take part.
If you agree to take part in this study, you will be asked to sign the electronic Consent Form sent to you. You will be sent a copy of both this and the Participant Information Sheet to keep.

This document is three pages long. Please make sure you have read and understood all the pages.

**WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS STUDY?**

TV and film can affect how we understand illness. We wish to understand whether watching a TV episode influences our beliefs about illness.

**WHAT WILL MY PARTICIPATION IN THE STUDY INVOLVE?**

You will be sent a link to watch one of the television episodes we are studying and then will be asked to complete a questionnaire about your beliefs about different illnesses with a researcher over Zoom call. Zoom recordings will be made to help us analyze what participants share with us. We will invite you to have your camera on, but you can opt to have it off. If your camera is on, the Zoom recording will include video but we will only keep the audio track. Video files will be deleted after the interview and only audio files will be kept, stored securely on a password protected data server.

If you do not wish to continue to watch the television episode or complete the questionnaire, you will be free to stop at any time.

Watching the television episode and completing the questionnaire will take up to one hour. You will be posted a $50 voucher after the study visit. This will assist with the costs you may incur with participating in this study. This will be made available to you even if you withdraw before completing the study visit. In order to post the voucher to you, you will need to provide the researchers with a postal address. These postal details would be kept confidential to the research team.

There will be 200 participants in this study.

We do not expect your participation within this study will put you at risk of any serious adverse event. It is possible that you will be emotionally affected when watching television or completing a questionnaire asking about different illnesses. If this were to happen, you will be given additional time, and the option of discontinuing.

As part of the questionnaire, we will ask you about whether you or anyone you know has any of the illnesses we are studying.

**WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE STUDY?**

Your participation will be kept confidential and all data will be stored securely for 6 years. All physical data will be stored securely at the Department of Medicine at the University of Auckland and all electronic data will be stored on a password protected data server. After 6 years all paper forms will be shredded, and all electronic data will be erased. The study will take over a year to complete. We can send you a letter with results of the study at the end of this time. If you would like a copy of the results, please provide a contact address we can send them to.
We plan to publish results from this study in scientific journals so that the information is freely available to other doctors, researchers and the public. The results generated from the study may be made available for use in future research. Participants will not be identified in any report or publication and all information about your identity will be kept strictly confidential.

**RIGHT TO WITHDRAW FROM PARTICIPATION**

Participation in this study is voluntary (your choice). You are free to decline to participate or withdraw from the research without any disadvantage to you. You do not need to give a reason to withdraw from the study.

If you decide after the study visit you want to withdraw from the study, you have the right to withdraw your collected information as long as you let us know within 2 weeks. After 2 weeks, the information collected may continue to be processed as part of the study.

**ANONYMITY AND CONFIDENTIALITY**

Your participation in this study will remain confidential. We will ensure that your questionnaire and your personal details are protected, by de-identifying all data we collect from you. No information collected, which could identify you personally, will be used in any reports on this study. Your information will be stored securely in electronic and paper form. Apart from the study researchers, no one else will have access to your information.

**WHO DO I CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION OR IF I HAVE CONCERNS?**

If you have any concerns or complaints about the study at any stage, you can contact:

- Professor Nicola Dalbeth  
  Telephone 09 923 2568  
  Email: n.dalbeth@auckland.ac.nz

Or:  
- Professor Ian Reid (Head of Department, School of Medicine)  
  Telephone number: 09 923 6259  
  Email: i.reid@auckland.ac.nz

For any concerns regarding ethical issues you may contact the Chair, The University of Auckland Human Participants Ethics Committee, Office of Strategy Research and Integrity, University of Auckland, Private Bag 92019, Auckland 1142. Telephone 09 373-7599 ext. 83711. Email: humanethics@auckland.ac.nz

Approved by the University of Auckland Human Participants Ethics Committee on 27/10/2020 for three years. Reference Number UAHPEC3277.